

INSLAW

Part 2 of 2

From: stanley@aoxoa.enet.dec.com
Subject: Writer killed in possible connection to DC conspiracy
Organization: Digital Equipment Corporation
Date: 14 AUG 91 10:27:03

"Was writer the victim of a D.C. conspiracy?"
By John Aloysius Farrel Boston Globe Staff
The Boston Globe 8/14/91

WASHINGTON - To his family and fellow conspiracy buffs, Danny Casolaro called it "The Octopus," a shady set of connections he was tracing that appeared to link a series of scandals from the Reagan and Bush administrations involving Middle East arms deals, drug trafficking and political corruption.

As he set off for West Virginia last week, the 44-year-old writer told his friends he would be meeting a source who would give him the solid evidence he lacked to prove his suspicions. He also left them with a warning.

"He told us...if there was an accident and he died, not to believe it," said Casolaro's brother Anthony, a physician in the Washington suburbs. Dr. Casolaro recalled his brother's words when Martinsburg, W. Va., police called him Monday with the news that Joseph Daniel Casolaro had been found in a bathtub in a Sheraton hotel room there. He had bled to death from severed arteries in his arms, his brother said.

The police at first concluded that the death was a suicide and had the body embalmed. But when told by his family and investigative reporters what Casolaro had been working on, the police promised an autopsy and further investigation and clamped a lid on the case. A preliminary report from state medical examiners is due today.

Yesterday, former Attorney General Elliot Richardson call for a federal investigation.

"It's hard to come up with any reason for his death other than that he was deliberately murdered because he was so close to uncovering sinister elements in what he called The Octopus," said Richardson, whose clients in a politically charged lawsuit here helped Casolaro in his work. "This simply strengthens the case for an in-depth hard-hitting, thorough investigation...I can't think of any explanation other than foul play."

According to his friends and family, Casolaro was primarily working on the case of INSLAW Inc., a small software company that has won several rounds of an ongoing eight-year legal battle with the Justice Department and has Richardson as its lawyer.

It was during his investigation of INSLAW that Casolaro found what he saw as tenuous links between the Reagan administration officials in that case and at least three more political scandals, his brother said. They included:

- The collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which reportedly used branches in 69 countries to hold and launder money for drug traffickers, terrorists and the CIA.
- The Iran-Contra scandal, in which the Reagan administration sold arms to Iran and used the profits illegally to finance the Nicaraguan contras.
- The so-called "October Surprise" in which representatives of the Reagan-Bush presidential campaign are alleged to have dealt arms to Iran in return for a promise that 52 American hostages would not be released until after the 1980 elections, thus preventing President Carter from bringing the hostages home as a popular, vote-winning October "surprise."

According to Dr. Casolaro, the "Octopus" was not some secret organization, but his brother's term for a small group of individuals, some of them American, who participate in the clandestine operations as middlemen or fixers, with profit as a motive.

"He didn't envision them as a group like the Mafia. More as a network.... They would overlap when their needs coincided," said Dr. Casolaro. "Using the analogy, BCCI would be one arm of it. The October Surprise: Danny said that was literally just another arm. INSLAW is yet another arm."

INSLAW alleges that Reagan administration officials conspired to steal a valuable software program from the firm and sell it to foreign governments. INSLAW says that the Reagan administration tried to put it out of business when its owners fought back.

A US bankruptcy judge concluded in 1988 that the Justice Department indeed "stole" the software through "trickery, fraud and deceit" and improperly tried to push INSLAW into bankruptcy. An appeals court ruled in May, however, that the case should have been tried in federal district court, not bankruptcy

court, forcing INSLAW to start over in its litigation.

The outgoing attorney general, Dick Thornburgh, has had a bitter political battle with the House Judiciary Committee over INSLAW. In July, Thornburgh refused to appear before the committee to answer questions about the case. When he repeatedly refused to let Congress review the Justice Department's files, the Judiciary Committee subpoenaed almost 500 documents as part of a continuing investigation.

INSLAW has submitted affidavits in its court case from three men who say that high-ranking Reagan administration officials and their friends were allowed to peddle its software to Israel, Iraq and other foreign governments, perhaps as a lucrative reward for their participation in alleged October Surprise scheme. The software is designed to keep track of law enforcement cases but could also be used to keep tabs on political dissidents.

INSLAW's owner, William Hamilton, a former National Security Agency employee, said that Casolaro suspected that American intelligence agencies might also have wanted to outfit the software with a "trap door" program that would allow US computers to penetrate another government's data base once it was installed.

But the evidence is extremely sketchy. Two of the three affidavits were given by men in jail awaiting trial on unrelated charges. The third man was recently acquitted of illegal arms dealing and is said to be in hiding in Australia. All three are players in international arms trading.

"I certainly do not believe there was sufficient evidence" that the affidavits were true, Richardson acknowledged. "But I also think that if you take them together with a lot of the information now being assembled, and the statements made by a number of individuals, that all this adds up to a clear case for further investigation. I think that is reinforced by the death of Danny Casolaro."

Casolaro, who had published several works of fiction as well as free-lance investigative stories, and who edited a computer newsletter, had hit a dry spell in his investigation until recently, when he became "ecstatic" about a breakthrough and told friends he was accumulating proof. He also began to get death threats, his brother said, but brushed them aside as he prepared for his trip to West Virginia last week.

Casolaro called his mother Friday to tell her he was on his way home, but that

he might miss a family gathering that night in Arlington, Va. He sounded "upbeat," his brother said. But on Saturday afternoon, a Sheraton employee found him dead in a hotel bathtub, his arteries slashed with a broken beer bottle.

Dr. Casolaro said that police found an unsigned note that said: "I'm sorry, especially to my son." But he and Casolaro's friends refuse to believe the writer committed suicide.

"He was excited. He had finally, he thought, got the solid evidence tying INSLAW to this network," said Dr. Casolaro.

Dave Stanley

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Subject: the INSLAW case: Murder in the Martinsburg Sheraton

Subject: the INSLAW case: Murder in the Martinsburg Sheraton?
Keywords: when justice is denied one citizen, everyone is in danger
Lines: 200

The House Judiciary Committee has been investigating the scandal since August 1989. After months of foot-dragging, Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, under subpoena by the committee, finally released Inslaw-related files. However, according to a source in the House, 15 to 20 files are missing.

"Washington Post" columnist Mary McGrory is one of the few mainstream journalists to give the Inslaw case serious attention. She wrote on August 18, "The man who could have resolved the Inslaw case, Dick Thornburgh, resigned as attorney general on the day the West Virginia police came forward with their autopsy [on Casolaro]. . . . What was merely sinister has now turned deadly. Thornburgh calls Inslaw 'a little contract dispute' and refused to testify about it to the House Judiciary Committee. Richardson thinks it could be 'dirtier than Watergate,' and, as a victim of the scandal, he should know. Thornburgh's conduct is the most powerful reason for believing that Danny Casolaro really saw an octopus before he died."

from "The First Stone" column of the Sept. 4-10 1991 issue of "In These Times":

Murder in the Martinsburg Sheraton?
By Joel Bleifuss

For more than a year, Danny Casolaro, a Washington D.C.-based freelance investigator, had been sorting through a web of intrigue--the S&L debacle, BCCI, Iran-Contra, the contra-connected Wackenhut Corp., the Wackenhut-connected Inslaw case, and the Inslaw-connected

"October Surprise."

According to one of his close friends, who asked not to be named, Casolaro began receiving death threats eight or nine months ago.

"Brother, just make it quick," Casolaro is reported to have told one of these midnight callers. The last threat came on Monday, August 5, according to his brother, Anthony.

How quick death came we may never know. On Saturday, August 10, Casolaro was found dead in Room 517 of the Martinsburg, W. Va., Sheraton. His body was discovered with 12 incisions in his arms in a bathtub of bloody water 17 hours after he had called his mother's house at 6 p.m. Friday to say he was heading home but that he would not make it to his niece's birthday party. On the following Monday Martinsburg authorities notified the family of Casolaro's death, but by then the body had been embalmed and the motel room had been sanitized by a cleaning contractor. Officials are calling the incident an "unattended death" while they continue their investigation. Family and friends say that suicide is out of the question. They maintain that Casolaro was not a depressive type, and that while he did have financial problems, he did not dwell on them.

According to family and friends, before leaving for Martinsburg, Casolaro had been ecstatic. The pieces of the puzzle were finally fitting together. He had told them he was going to West Virginia to meet a source who was to help him nail down a last piece of evidence in his investigation into the Inslaw software-theft case.

Those close to Casolaro want many questions answered. Where is his ever-present briefcase? It was not in motel room. Where is his tape deck? It is missing. Where were his notes and the outline of his proposed book, "Behold a Pale Horse," which he had shown to friends days before his death? The documents were not to found in the Sheraton motel room or in the four boxes of his papers that the family turned over to ABC News. Why did authorities wait so long to notify the family of his death? His driver's license said he lived in Falls Church, Va., and all the Casolaros listed in the 703 area code are his relatives. Why was his body embalmed before the family was notified? West Virginia law requires family approval prior to embalming. Who was the man who telephoned Casolaro's house on Saturday evening? When a housekeeper picked up the phone, a voice said, "You're dead, you bastard."

MOTIVE FOR MURDER? What was Casolaro investigating that could have

put his life in such danger? David MacMichael is a former CIA analyst who now directs the Washington office of the Association of National Security Alumni, a watchdog group. MacMichael had talked to Casolaro on the phone on Thursday, the day he left for Martinsburg. Casolaro had made an appointment to meet with him.

Says MacMichael, "Providing the death was not a suicide, one can examine three scenarios." First, Casolaro was developing a theory that a group of former intelligence officers were members of a for-profit cabal that Casolaro called "The Octopus." According to his theory, over the past 25 years The Octopus had its tentacles in a number of international scandals. MacMichael doesn't think such a far-fetched-sounding theory would get Casolaro killed. "If you published their names, pictures and documents, what kind of book would you have?" asks MacMichael. It would be dismissed, according to MacMichael, like "a UFO crank book."

Second, Casolaro was looking into the October Surprise, the alleged deal between the 1980 Reagan presidential campaign and Iranians. That his death would be connected to this investigation is "nonsense" says MacMichael, who explains that many journalists are now investigating the 1980 deal, making it unlikely that Casolaro had information significant enough to endanger his life.

Which leads to the third scenario, that Casolaro was on his way to collect the final evidence needed to wrap up his investigation of a scandal that, as MacMichael put it, involves "real crimes, real people and real money"--the Inslaw case. (See "In These Times," May 29 ["Software Pirates" posted on-line previously].)

INSLAW MEETS THE LAW: For eight years, Inslaw Inc, has been battling the Justice Department for possession of Promis, an innovative case-management software program developed by company owner Bill Hamilton. In 1986 Inslaw filed suit against the department in federal court, claiming the department had stolen the program.

In September 1987, Judge George Bason, the federal bankruptcy judge from Washington, D.C., ruled, "The Department of Justice took, converted, stole Inslaw's enhanced Promis by trickery, fraud and deceit." He also charged, "The failure even to begin in investigate [these charges] is outrageous and indefensible and constitutes an institutional decision by the Department of Justice at the highest level simply to ignore charges of impropriety."

The Justice Department appealed the ruling, and in November 1989,

Judge William B. Bryant of the U.S. District Court in Washington affirmed the lower court's decision. He ruled, "The government acted willfully and fraudulently to obtain property that it was not entitled to under contract.

The Justice Department then appealed Bryant's ruling to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. On May 7 that court overturned the previous court decisions, saying the federal bankruptcy court lacked jurisdiction to hear the case. However, the Court of Appeals left the findings of fact undisturbed.

Earlier this year, the case took a new twist. Inslaw went public with allegations that the Reagan Justice Department, after it had stolen the Promis software, turned it over to Earl Brian, a friend of both former President Ronald Reagan and former Attorney General Edwin Meese. In 1974, Brian left then-California Gov. Reagan's cabinet.

Inslaw alleges that its software was given to Brian as a payoff for Brian's help in arranging the arms-and-hostages deal between the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign and representatives of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (see "In These Times," July 24, 1987, Oct. 12, 1988, and April 27, 1991). According to Inslaw owner Bill Hamilton, Brian, who runs United Press International, allegedly then marketed Promis to the intelligence agencies of Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Canada, South Korea, Libya, Great Britain, Germany, France, Australia, Thailand, Japan, Chile, Guatemala and Brazil. According to Inslaw's scenario, once the software was in use by foreign intelligence services, the U.S. National Security Agency would then be able to infiltrate the computerized intelligence files of these countries. Modifications on the pirated software were allegedly carried out by the Wackenhut Corp. of Coral Gables, Fla.

WHERE IS JUSTICE?: Inslaw's attorney, Elliot Richardson, the Nixon attorney general who resigned rather than participate in the Watergate cover-up, has long asked for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the Justice Department's handling of the case. But to no avail.

The House Judiciary Committee has been investigating the scandal since August 1989. After months of foot-dragging, Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, under subpoena by the committee, finally released Inslaw-related files. However, according to a source in the House, 15 to 20 files are missing.

"Washington Post" columnist Mary McGrory is one of the few

mainstream journalists to give the Inslaw case serious attention. She wrote on August 18, "The man who could have resolved the Inslaw case, Dick Thornburgh, resigned as attorney general on the day the West Virginia police came forward with their autopsy [on Casolaro]. Excess was the hallmark of the Thornburgh's farewell ceremony: an honor guard, a trooping of the colors, superlatives form subordinates. William P. Barr, his deputy and possible successor, spoke of Thornburgh's 'leadership, integrity, professionalism and fairness'--none of which Thornburgh displayed in his handling of Inslaw. What was merely sinister has now turned deadly. Thornburgh calls Inslaw 'a little contract dispute' and refused to testify about it to the House Judiciary Committee. Richardson thinks it could be 'dirtier than Watergate,' and, as a victim of the scandal, he should know. Thornburgh's conduct is the most powerful reason for believing that Danny Casolaro really saw an octopus before he died."

And in the wake of Casolaro's death, Richardson has repeated his call for a special prosecutor. He told the "Boston Globe"'s John Aloysius Farrell, "It's hard to come up with any reason for his death other than he was deliberately murdered because he was close to uncovering sinister elements in what he called 'The Octopus.' This simply strengthens the case for an in-depth, hard-hitting, thorough investigation."

But will there be one? The FBI is treating the death lightly. According to a spokesman in the Pittsburgh office, which has jurisdiction over West Virginia, "There is no federal investigative interest in the matter."

As for former Attorney General Thornburgh, he is now running for the Senate in Pennsylvania. If Justice is served, perhaps he will also run for cover.

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daveus rattus

yer friendly neighborhood ratman

KOYAANISQATSI

ko.yan.nis.qatsi (from the Hopi Language) n. 1. crazy life. 2. life in turmoil. 3. life out of balance. 4. life disintegrating.

5. a state of life that calls for another way of living.

Date: Fri, 29 Nov 1991 15:55:20 CST
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Sender: Activists Mailing List <ACTIV-L@UMCVMB.BITNET>
From: Students For Unbiased Media <sum@phoenix.Princeton.EDU>
Subject: Information Gulf 7.2: Suicide or Murder?

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CASOLARO: SUICIDE OR MURDER ?

by Liza Featherstone and Peter Rothberg

From Lies of Our Times (c) 11/91

On August 10, 44-year-old journalist Joseph D. (Danny) Casolaro was found dead in a bathtub of bloody water in a Martinsburg, West Virginia, hotel room. His wrists had been slashed twelve times. Casolaro - who had been investigating an "octopus" of possible links between the "October Surprise," the Inslaw scandal, BCCI corruption, and the Iran/contra affair - had gone to Martinsburg amid a series of death threats to meet with a key source, according to what he had told friends and associates.

The body was discovered just as Congress was about to open a formal investigation into the October Surprise allegations that members of the Reagan team bribed Iranian officials with arms to hold the American hostages until after the 1980 election. Although all who knew Casolaro agreed that he would have been unlikely to take his own life, the police have classified his death a suicide.

Casolaro's octopus theory was not his alone. Other journalists have speculated that the decade's major scandals are interwoven.

However, it is unlikely that such speculation will get a fair hearing, as theories contrary to official wisdom (remember JFK's murder) remain safely delusional because outfits like the New York Times and the Washington Post consistently omit evidence that might give them credence.

Coverage of Casolaro's death has ignored numerous details that point to foul play. The Times, in the course of fifty paragraphs on the case, did not mention that Casolaro's body was illegally embalmed, making the autopsy more difficult. Though the Post did acknowledge this startling irregularity - noting gently that the embalming was "apparently premature" (August 14, p. A4) - it did not report that it was illegal without the family's permission, which was never received.

Although both the Times and the Post mentioned that Casolaro received death threats, they neglected to point out that, according to William and Nancy Hamilton, co-owners of the Inslaw software company, several of their intelligence sources had expressed concern that Casolaro would be murdered if he continued his investigation (St. Louis Post - Dispatch, September 19, p. 2). The Hamiltons, who say they told this to reporters from both major dailies, have proven credible in the past: Two U.S. courts have upheld their claims that the Justice Department stole their software and forced their company into bankruptcy.

"You're Dead, You Bastard"

Even more curious is the way that two unexplained phone calls have been studiously ignored. The first one came to Casolaro's home in Falls Church, Virginia, on the evening of Saturday, August 10, the day Casolaro died, but two days before his family was notified. When a housekeeper picked up the phone, a voice said, "You're dead, you bastard," and quickly hung up.

The next day - still 24 hours before Casolaro's death became widely known - Village Voice national affairs editor Dan Bischoff received an anonymous call reporting that a journalist who had been investigating the October Surprise had just been found dead in West Virginia and that this should be checked out.

These calls were repeatedly noted in news briefs across the

country, yet the Times neglected to mention either one, and the Post mentioned only the call to Casolaro's home once in a brief aside on August 13 (p. A8).

Missing Papers

Other details that complicate the suicide verdict have simply been ignored. Though B. Drummond Ayres, Jr., saw fit to garner quotes from the Justice Department, the White House, and the FBI (New York Times, September 3, p. D12), he failed to report that all of Casolaro's papers and his tape deck were missing from the hotel room or that, although a half-empty jug of wine was found by the body, the autopsy showed no alcohol in Casolaro's blood.

Similarly, in the midst of a story which ignored evidence inconsistent with the claim of suicide, Gary Lee of the Post brazenly cautioned that, though "Friends and relatives strongly suspect foul play," they have "presented no evidence of it" (August 13, p. A8).

This selectivity of detail gets more elaborate. The Post, unlike the Times, named Michael Riconosciuto, a computer specialist who said that the Justice Department had hired him to modify the stolen Inslaw software. But all the Post told us about Riconosciuto was that "he has been in jail since last March on drug-related charges" (August 19, p. A13). This information, presented in a vacuum, diminished his credibility and cast doubt on Casolaro's investigations, since the story incorrectly suggested that Riconosciuto was his only source. This is unfortunate, since additional facts lend Riconosciuto's drug charges quite different implications.

In an affidavit issued for the Inslaw case last March, Riconosciuto said that Peter Videnieks, the Justice Department official who dealt with Inslaw, warned him not to cooperate with House Judiciary Committee members who had been looking into the scandal. The affidavit described Riconosciuto's own role in the software scam, and implicated Earl Brian - former president of UPI - in the affair. (See Joel Bleifuss, In These Times, May 29, p. 11). Brian, a long-time crony of Edwin Meese, worked on both of Ronald Reagan's presidential campaigns and is alleged to have been a key player in the arms-for-hostages October Surprise deal.

Since Riconosciuto went public with his revelations, other informants from the world of covert operations have verified and augmented his claims, according to former Attorney General Eliot Richardson, an inscrutable maverick representing the Hamiltons in their ongoing case against the Justice Department (New York Times, October 21, p. A17).

Coincidence?

Eight days after filing his affidavit, Riconosciuto was arrested in Washington state and charged with distributing methamphetamine. He is currently awaiting trial without bail - unusually Stirr treatment for an offense of this kind. The arrest was too coincidental for William Hamilton, who explained that Riconosciuto "stated under oath that he was threatened with reprisal. And then he's arrested within a week of filing that affidavit," (UPI wire report, March 31,1991). Coincidental or not, this was another newsworthy element of the story that was steadfastly ignored by the Times and the Post.

Or Retribution?

The circumstances surrounding Riconosciuto's arrest are important to the Casolaro case, as they suggest that linking Inslaw to the October Surprise could lead to "coincidental" retribution. The Post used Riconosciuto's drug charges to discredit Casolaro when they actually provide telling evidence that he may have been on to something.

Elliot Richardson, who has called for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the case, also believes Casolaro may have been on to something. "It's hard to come up with any reason for [Casolaro's] death other than that he was deliberately murdered because he was so close to uncovering sinister elements in what he called the 'Octopus,' " Richardson said (Time, August 26, p.21).

Even if the Octopus does live, however, its tentacles will rarely be noted by the New York Times and the Washington Post as they practice a well-rehearsed evasion of any suggestion of government duplicity.

Liza Featherstone is a freelance writer and researcher who lives in Brooklyn.

Lies of Our Times is a magazine of media criticism. "Our Times" are the times we live in but also the words of the New York Times, the most cited newsmedium in the U.S.

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From: dave 'who can do? ratmandu!' ratcliffe
<dave@ratmandu.corp.sgi.com>
Subject: the INSLAW Case: 2/29/88 "BARRON'S" piece on Brian-Meese
connection

although this article is 3 1/2 years old, there's precious little in the public record regarding Earl "Cash" Brian. Brian's connections to Meese is one avenue of research worth studying. This article provides a few more details.

from the February 29, 1988 issue of
"BARRON'S NATIONAL BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL WEEKLY"

Brian's Meese Connection
Maggie Mahar

DR. EARL Brian, chairman of both FNN and its parent, Infotech, stepped into the glare of controversy surrounding Attorney General Edwin Meese III in 1984, when a "Report of Independent Counsel Concerning Edwin Meese" was made public. The inquiry, conducted by Jacob Stein, investigated a tangle of loans and investments involving Dr. Brian, the SBA, Mrs. Meese, and the Meeses' longtime friend and associate, Edwin Thomas.

Brian, Meese and Thomas had met when they served together in Ronald Reagan's California administration. Thomas went on to work for Meese at the Center for Criminal Justice Policy and Management, which Mr. Meese had established at the University of San Diego Law School. In 1980, Meese asked Thomas to join him on Reagan's transitional team.

Brian and Thomas also remained close friends. According to the Stein report, Thomas "described himself as one of a number of so-called 'Earl watchers,' i.e., people who knew and admired Dr. Brian and who followed his various business ventures."

Early in 1981, Thomas lent \$15,000, interest-free, to Ursula Meese. Before making the loan, Thomas had discussed Infotech--then known as Biotech--with Mrs. Meese. And so even though the Meeses were strapped for cash, and even having trouble making their mortgage payments that year, Ursula Meese decided to use the \$15,000 loan to purchase shares in Biotech for two of her children.

Edwin Meese, who was aware of both the loan and the investment, forgot to report the loan on 1981, 1982 and 1983 financial-disclosure forms.

During this period, Thomas was working for Meese in Washington. Thomas was appointed assistant counselor to the President under Meese from January 1981 to February 1982. Then, in 1982, Thomas received an appointment as administrator of the San Francisco regional office of the General Services Administration. The Independent Counsel's report turned up "no evidence" that the appointments were connected to the loan, however--or that Meese wanted to conceal the loans.

But the report does suggest that Mrs. Meese continued to follow Thomas's investment advice. In May of ,1981, she bought \$500 worth of shares in a company that Brian was actively negotiating to buy for Biotech--American Cytogenetics. At the same time, Thomas was buying American Cytogenetics for his own account. Later, Mrs. Meese made a profit on the American Cytogenetics shares--though she ultimately took a loss on Biotech. The Stein report considered allegations of insider trading in the case of the American Cytogenetics purchase, but found no evidence.

In the spring of 1981, Questech, a wholly owned subsidiary of Brian's Biotech, enters the report's murky drama. In 1980, Questech had applied for a license that would make Questech eligible for SBA loans. In April 1981, the license still had not been approved, and a moratorium was declared on SBA licenses until screening procedures were reviewed. According to the report, Thomas called the SBA offices twice to inquire about the moratorium. He could not recall if he identified himself as a White House employee. When questioned by independent counsel, SBA officials could not remember taking the call.

Questech did get its license, however. On April 28, 1981, the SBA decided to lift the moratorium on those SBIC applications that had been under review when the moratorium went into effect. Questech, thus, became one of a handful of companies that received the SBA license at that time, making it eligible for millions in

loans. Today, Infotech carries \$12 million in SBA loans on its books. The report concludes however, that there was no evidence that the phone calls from Thomas had any effect, or that Questech received any special treatment from the SBA.

But, according to Brian, the Independent Counsel's scrutiny kicked off an investigation of Questech's SBA audit. The press soon disclosed that, according to the audit, Questech was investing in slot-machine operations in Las Vegas at about the same time that it was receiving the SBA license.

Dr. Brian explains: "We had made a real-estate investment of \$150,000 that carried with it warrants to invest in a public company called Jackpot Enterprises." Was the real estate in question in Las Vegas? "I can't remember where the building was," Brian replies.

In any event, the SBA decided the investment was not allowable because the business was illegal in some states. "The remedy," says Brian, "is that Questech transferred its interest in Jackpot Enterprises to Biotech, at the behest of the SBA."

The report scrutinized one other connection between Brian and the White House. In the spring of 1982, the White House senior staff approved the nomination of Brian for a position on the National Science Board. Brian's nomination, with the others on the slate, was approved by the President.

But, the report reveals, Brian never served: "After the FBI clearance investigation had been conducted, questions raised by White House counsel's office caused Dr. Brian to withdraw his name. He was never formally nominated." According to the "Washington Post," Brian says that he withdrew his name because of "a hassle" with one of the members of the selection panel.

The Stein investigation found no basis for any criminal charge against Meese arising out of his recommendation of Brian for the NSB.

Brian himself becomes an active character in the Stein report minidrama in July of 1981. That summer, Brian lent \$100,000 to Edwin Thomas. Just seven months earlier, Thomas had lent \$15,000 to Ursula Meese. Why was Thomas lending people money if he, too, was hard-pressed for cash?

According to the report, in July Thomas needed money because he wanted to make a downpayment on a Washington, D.C. townhouse.

The Stein report goes on to note that, in the same month, "Dr. Brian lent Mr. Thomas an additional \$9,900 to purchase stock in a

company called Financial News Network. Dr. Brian did this by causing his broker to purchase the stock in Mr. Thomas's name, and advancing the funds for the purchase."

Thomas did not list the \$100,000 loan from Brian on his financial-disclosure forms in 1982 or 1983. He claimed that the loans were ultimately secured by a mortgage on his Squaw Valley house, which he considered a personal residence and therefore exempt from reporting requirements.

Brian acknowledges that he forgave much of the interest on the loan, but says that he was unaware at the time of Thomas's loan to Ursula Meese or her purchase of Biotech.

The report discloses, however, that later correspondence between Brian and Thomas in the spring of 1983 discussed Mr. Thomas's debt and referred, on a number of occasions, to the Meese purchase of \$15,000 of Biotech stock with money advanced by Thomas. Nonetheless, the Stein report asserts that it ultimately found "no connection between the Brian-Thomas transactions and the purchase by Mrs. Meese of Biotech stock six months earlier.

The report concludes: "Inferences might be drawn from Mr. Thomas's contact with Dr. Brian and his purchase of American Cytogenetics during the ongoing negotiations, particularly in light of the \$100,000 loan from Dr. Brian and Mr. Thomas's non-disclosure. Whether Mr. Thomas or Dr. Brian committed any violation of law was not a matter within our jurisdiction. Even if we were to make an assumption that Mr. Thomas might have been acting on the basis of insider information, we have been given no evidence by the SEC nor have we uncovered evidence that he communicated that information to Mrs. Meese, or that Mrs. Meese was aware (or had reason to be aware) that Mr. Thomas had such information. Therefore, we find no basis for any criminal charge arising out of the purchase or sale by Mrs. Meese of American Cytogenetics."

Brian flushes with anger as he responds: "In my opinion, that was a gratuitous statement in the Stein report. There was nothing to the underlying implication." Moreover, he observes, the SEC investigated the matter and cleared all parties.

Brian's recent move to acquire UPI may once again put a Spotlight on Brian's connections with the Reagan Administration. Last week the "Washington Post" raised the issue when pointing out that Brian, the head of the new UPI group, was a principal stockholder in a company that last fall won a \$40 million Justice

Department contract.

Brian, it turns out, owns 4% of Hadron Inc., while Infotech owns another 4%. Last October, Hadron announced that, after competitive bidding, it had been awarded a \$40 million-plus contract to supply computerized legal support services to the Justice Department's Land and Natural Resources Division. Brian told the "Washington Post" that he was unfamiliar with the details of the deal. The contract was awarded to a wholly owned subsidiary of Hadron, known as Acumedics Research and Technology Inc., and Brian disclaimed knowledge, saying, "It is not something that would come up to the Hadron board level."

--

daveus rattus

yer friendly neighborhood ratman

KOYAANISQATSI

ko.yan.nis.qatsi (from the Hopi Language) n. 1. crazy life. 2. life in turmoil. 3. life out of balance. 4. life disintegrating.
5. a state of life that calls for another way of living.

POWS.001 6913

John Dinardo's introduction to the series of posts below, expressing his feelings of concern for the issue.

POWS.002 3696

POWS.003 13837

Excerpts from the script of Colonel Bo Gritz's POW video, "A Nation Betrayed"

POWS.004 9318

Excerpts from a National Spotlight article on the POWS. Profuse apologies from John DiNardo for finding it necessary to use material from a source he finds distasteful.

POWS.005 6027

New York Times story on POWS.

POWS.006 6368

POWS.007 21563

Further excerpts from "A Nation Betrayed". POWS.007 contains material linking mobster Santos Trafficante, CIA operative Theodore Shackley (who appears again as a mid-level player in the Contra arms affair), and the Southeast Asian heroin trade. Attempts to interest the authorities in the matter go nowhere.

POWS.008 6882

Article from St. Louis Post Dispatch. Colonel Millard Peck resigns as head of DIA POW/MIA office. Charges that issue is being deliberately neglected. National Spotlight article covers Judge Hamilton Gayden's testimony before the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA's.

POWS.009 13510

POWS.010 9549

POWS.011 8389

POWS.012 9656

POWS.013 9661

POWS.014 8776

LA Times Magazine article by Edward Tinvan. Focusses on former NSA analyst Jerry Mooney's claims to have evidence via communications intercepts of living POWS.

POWS.015 10346

POWS.016 8564

Financial Times of London Reviews the book "Kiss the Boys Goodbye".
A shocking expose alleging elements in the government deliberately
sought to avoid a safe return of the POW's.

RESIGN.POW 12779

Transcript of Colonel Peck's resignation statement.

GAYDEN.POW 9362

Transcript of Judge Gayden's testimony before the Senate Select Committee

The following files contain additional material on Danny Casolaro and
the Inslaw case. I came across them as I was preparing these disks to
send out. They were obtained from a computerized "archive" site serving
the ACTIV-L electronic mailing list, a conference devoted to political
activism which discusses many of the topics also covered in alt.conspiracy

INSLAW.VV 24241

"Software to Die For" - James Ridgeway interviews Elliot Richardson on
Inslaw, etc. for Village Voice column

WAKENHUT.ITT 11765

Article on Wackenhut Corp, from In These Times

WAKENHUT.BAR 5425

Article on Wackenhut from Barron's

ERLBRIAN.BAR 11385

Barron's article on Earl Brian

RCHDSON.NYT 11598

Elliot Richardson New York Times Op-Ed on Inslaw

INSLAW.ITT 30203

In These Times article on the Inslaw case

INSLAW1.AFD 8811

Affidavit of Michael Riconosciuto in the Inslaw case

INSLAW2.AFD 4094

Affidavit of Ari Ben-Menashe in the Inslaw case

INSLAW3.AFD 6273

Affidavit of Richard Babayan in the Inslaw case

CASOLARO.GLO 7655

Boston Globe article on Danny Casolaro

CASOLARO.ITT 12740

In These Times article on Danny Casolaro

CASOLARO.LOT 8960

Article on the Casolaro case reprinted by "Information Gulf" from
"Lies of our Times"

25
Article #13830 (13917 is last):

Newsgroups: alt.activism,alt.activism.d,alt.censorship,alt.conspiracy,
Subject: The Prisoners -- Judge Gayden's testimony to Senate Select Committee
From: seraphim@irie.ais.org (seraphim)
Date: Mon Mar 23 20:04:05 1992

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Members of the Select Committee:

My name is Hamilton Gayden and I thank you for this opportunity to discuss our present ability to investigate the existence of live Americans in Southeast Asia. By way of background, I am a State of Tennessee Circuit Court Judge and an author of a novel, a story of an American P.O.W. However, I appear before you as an individual American, not as a Judge nor as an author.

I also introduce to you in absentia an American-Laotian by the name of Khambang Sibounheuang. A year and a half ago, Khambang and I formed a pact; we agreed to merge in an effort to gather evidence of American P.O.W.s and, if the situation presented, to help in an escape attempt. Khambang is presently in Southeast Asia.

Our original motives were somewhat different although in time our interests have become more similar. My desire was to help liberate live Americans from bondage; Khambang's main interest was to draw attention to the oppressed Laotian people who are being subjected to endless deprivation of human rights and liberties -- the P.O.W. issue might draw attention to the conditions in Laos and Vietnam today.

At this point, Khambang and I have accumulated considerable evidence: photographs, finger, thumb, and hand prints; human hair including "root hair"; signatures, written messages, live witnesses; some of the evidence has been discarded by us as false, other evidence will require scientific testing, i.e. DNA hair analysis and comparison; thumb and finger print comparison and interviews of live witnesses; and we may even be able to provide a live video of American P.O.W.s. We have already delivered considerable evidence to the Foreign Relations Committee, although we admittedly have no clue as to whether that evidence is secure. We believe we will be able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the identity of a handful of American P.O.W., and by a preponderance of the evidence of many other American and allied P.O.W.s. We offer an educated guess that there are as many as three hundred to four hundred American and allied

P.O.W.s scattered in small or large groups of camps and guarded villages throughout Laos, Vietnam and possibly southern China.

Our evidence comes from many sources including Khambang's Laotian contacts in Laos and Thailand, military and civilian. (Khambang is the 13th ranked member of the International Free Laotian Congress, was a company commander in the Royal Lao Army and is a veteran of the secret war in Laos, 1960-1975.) We are also in contact with an Interpol agent, one ex-CIA Special Forces person who obtained evidence for the United States on P.O.W.s in Asia, and a DIA informant, among others.

To address the question of what "our capabilities" are we must draw a distinct line between "Our" meaning Khambang, myself, other private individuals and friends who have had no encouragement or help from the United States government. In fact, we believe we are justified in adopting the approach that the United States Government is our number one enemy.

In order to understand our government's directive to those agencies charged with MIA/POW affairs, we must come to grips with the ominous realization that the ever-present threat that the Vietnamese and Laotian leaders will disclose to the American people the existence of live Americans who still want to be repatriated is the focal point and driving force for the administration's Southeast Asia foreign policy, and it is this silent yet politically explosive blackmail that dictates the purpose and policy of the government agencies charged with MIA/POW affairs.

The directive from the top is simple: "There are no more POWs!" And this is a direct quote from the President, the National Security Advisor and the Secretary of Defense.

The sole quest for accountability is condensed down to delivery of "remains only." This statement paraphrases a Laotian Ambassador who stated to an American businessman that the Laotian government has privately continued to attempt to negotiate for the release of Americans. The program for the agencies is to deceive, discredit, deny, debunk, and, most importantly, interdict -- no live POWs: the goal is for the Vietnamese and Laotians to carry out the final act; dead men don't talk.

Looking at the big picture, the realities are that we are on the threshold of being asked to accept a Southeast Asia Foreign policy where we promote democracy with money and men and women in Cambodia and concomitantly refuel

Communism just accross the boarders in Laos and Vietnam. This inconsistant policy will assuredly lead to needless bloodshed for American men and women and our allies stationed in Cambodia.

In our endeavor to obtain evidence we have had to box from many angles as we have many enemies who do not want the facts to emerge -- that there are live Americans still being held against their will.

The duplicity of our own governemnt is unchecked. Why? Because the American people want to believe our leaders. A prime example is the simple pronouncement by the Defense Department that the three men in the recent photograph are Russians. The average person on the street beleived it. Yet it is an incredible lie. Even Khambang and I, for a short period of time, opted to cooperate with the Defense Department in giving them raw intelligence. The result was that the Defense Department passed the information, along with our requests, to the Communists. We also have been told of the Defense Department's destruction or loss of official finger print files, "red flagging" of recent confirmed live sighting reports, and "red flagging of live files" all in the past weeks.

The Defense Department's excursions into Laos in search of Donald Eugene Carr is a floor show to deceive -- to have the American people think the Defense Department is working on the problem. The way to get Donald Carr and the thirty men he is with out is to give the Laotians an ultimatum or negotiate. And we know, don't we, that the Laotians allegedly found Daniel Borah, the "mountain man", immediately from one photograph passed to the Communists by the same defense department. The Communist [sic] have the Carr photo. Why don't they just go get him!

We also know that there is a plan in place to "end-run" this committee to begin immediate talks with Vietnam. At the time of this writing I am told by an informant that the President himself will unilaterally announce the beginning of talks. The two reasons advanced to justify "immediate talks" is that we are wasting an opportunity to develop oil reserves and because the Laotian and Vietnamese Communists are cooperating on the MIA/POW issue. Simultaneously, we are told in November, Americans being held in Southeast Asia will be removed to an area west of Dien Bien Phu where they will be held pending the progress and outcome of talks to normalize relations, and the Final Solution is tentatively set for January to February of next year. [ie 1992] We are told our governement is fully aware of this plan, and one of the essentials of this plan has already taken place -- the delay of any inquiry by this committee.

In closing, I am going to quote the Vietnamese Ambassador to the United Nations, Ambassador Nguyen Can, who said to a group of us who met with him in the fall of 1989 at the Vietnamese Mission in New York, to paraphrase: We will never be able to account for Americans because your government won't let us.

10/29/91
Hamilton Gayden

provided to the net by:

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Bob Smith, New Hampshire, Vice Chairman

Tom Daschle, South Dakota
Harry Reid, Nevada
Charles Robb, Virginia
Bob Kerry, Nebraska
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John McCain, Arizona
Hank Brown, Colorado
Charles Grassley, Iowa
Nancy Landon Kassebaum, Kansas
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"The true measure of a man is not where he stands during moments of comfort and contentment; but rather where he stands during moments of challenge and controversy." -- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Date: Tue, 8 Oct 1991 15:16:14 CDT
Reply-To: dave 'who can do? ratmandu!' ratcliffe
<dave@ratmandu.corp.sgi.com>
Sender: Activists Mailing List <ACTIV-L@UMCVMB.BITNET>
From: dave 'who can do? ratmandu!' ratcliffe
<dave@ratmandu.corp.sgi.com>
Subject: the INSLAW case: Software Pirates

Subject: the INSLAW case: Software Pirates
Keywords: what do the words "with liberty and justice for all" really mean?
Lines: 470

When Congress established the NSA in 1959, it put the agency above the law, decreeing, "Nothing in this act or any other law . . . shall be construed to require the disclosure of the organization or any function of the National Security Agency [or] of any information with respect to the activities thereof."

The "St. Louis Post-Dispatch," which has assigned reporter Phil Linsalata to cover the alleged Inslaw and 1980 scandals, has called for a congressional inquiry to "alert the public to the pervasiveness of underground government, both legal and illegal." As the May 13 editorial put it, "If a subterranean network of operatives [like that exposed in the Iran-contra investigation] still exists, carrying out secret government policies, the very survival of a democratic political system based on law requires that it be exposed to the light. [The Inslaw case] may reveal part of an illegal policy that was put in place even before the Reagan administration had taken office. That is why Congress must try to find out the truth behind [allegations that the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign arranged a secret arms-for-hostages deal with Iran]."

Only when these allegations are brought to light can justice be served.

the following appear in the May 29-June 11, 1991 issue of "IN THESE TIMES:"

SOFTWARE PIRATES

By Joel Bleifuss

FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, A WASHINGTON, D.C.-based computer-software company has been trying to bring the Justice Department to justice. In an ongoing legal battle that pits Inslaw Corp. against its powerful one-time main customer, the software company charges that the U.S. Department of Justice robbed it of its program, conspired to send the company into bankruptcy and then initiated a coverup.

At issue is a wizard of a program that enables any bureaucracy to track cases--and the people involved in them--as they wend their way through the judicial system. Heralded as a breakthrough for the criminal-justice system, the Inslaw software was a potential gold mine. It had sales appeal to both law-enforcement agencies and their shadier counterparts in the international intelligence community.

In 1987, Judge George Bason, the federal bankruptcy judge for Washington, D.C., ruled that "the Department of Justice took, converted, stole" the Inslaw software "by trickery, fraud and deceit." The case is still in the courts.

At first glance, the Inslaw affair appears to be yet another of the double deals that became the hallmark of White House politics in the '80s--one more in a string of scandals to emerge from the shadows of the Reagan and Bush administrations.

But Inslaw is different. In the spring of 1988, a Justice Department official contacted Ronald LeGrand, then-chief investigator of the Senate Judiciary Committee, asking him to give Inslaw's owners this message: "The Inslaw case is a lot dirtier for the Department of Justice than Watergate was, both in its breadth and its depth."

Inslaw's owners now believe the Justice Department stole their software for three possible reasons: to reward businessman and arms dealer Earl W. Brian with a profitable product for his part in the alleged arms-for-hostages deal between the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign team and representatives of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini; to provide off-the-book financing for the administration's covert operations; and to provide the U.S. National Security Agency with a computerized Trojan horse to market to the international intelligence community.

HE'S GOT PROMIS: In January 1974, the non-profit Institute for Law and Social Research, known as Inslaw, received the first in a series of federal contracts to design a computer program that the

Justice Department could use to track cases through the entire U.S. court system.

Bill Hamilton, company founder and president, is the computer wiz who developed the statistical database that is at the center of the controversy. It is known as Prosecutor's Management Information System (Promis). Promis was designed to help federal prosecutors maintain a running record of upcoming deadlines and keep track of reasons why cases were won, lost or dismissed.

But what makes Promis unique is the program's adaptability, embodied in a special subsystem that, among other things, automatically translates the terminology from one judicial jurisdiction to another. For example, Promis can integrate information from court proceedings in different states--to Promis, Chicago's "cases" are the same as Los Angeles' "dockets."

The Promis potential, however, is not limited to the court system. Says Hamilton, "Because of that subsystem that allows it to change the codes, you can change Promis so that it tracks clients for social services." Or it can track criminals for police departments. In fact, the Promis system makes it easy for any bureaucracy to monitor a large number of individuals for whatever reason.

One U.S. official who saw promise in Promis was Edwin Meese, then-counselor to President Reagan who later became U.S. attorney general. In April 1981, Meese told a luncheon gathering of law-enforcement officials, "What the Promis program and what Inslaw have done provides one of the greatest opportunities for success in the future, because it has to do with good planning and good use of management information."

QUID PRO QUOS? But the administration had plans of its own and, according to Hamilton, was already conspiring to appropriate his invention.

In May of that year, Donald Santarelli, an Inslaw lawyer who had been a presidential appointee in the Nixon Justice Department, attended a White House meeting with Meese. Hamilton, in a court affidavit, said Santarelli told him that during that meeting Santarelli was warned that although the Reagan Justice Department planned to install Promis in all 94 U.S. attorneys' offices and in all of the department's investigative agencies, Inslaw "should not expect to automatically receive the contract [to install the software]." Hamilton says this exchange indicates that the White

House, and not the Justice Department, was calling the shots, and that therefore the Promis procurement was a political deal.

According to Hamilton's affidavit, the stage was set for the software company's takeover in the summer of 1981--the year that Inslaw became a for-profit company--when the Justice Department removed two key department officials involved in the Promis procurement: Patricia Goodrich, then project manager at the department for Promis, and Betty Thomas, then contracting officer in charge of purchasing the Promis software and administering the resulting contract.

Goodrich's position was filled by C. Madison Brewer, a former Inslaw employee whom Hamilton had fired in 1976. Thomas--who, according to Hamilton's affidavit, was told to step aside or be charged with "non-feasance"--was replaced by Peter Videnieks, formerly with the U.S. Customs Service.

Before moving over to the Justice Department and taking charge of the Promis program in September 1981, Videnieks had administered three contracts between the Customs Service and Hadron, Inc., a company that was in the business of integrating information-managing systems like Promis into federal agencies. Hadron is a subsidiary of Biotech Capital Corp., which was owned by Earl Brian. (In the fall of 1987, Biotech Capital was renamed Infotechnology, Inc., a Brian-owned holding company that controls Financial News Network and United Press International.)

In the early '70s, Brian served as California's secretary of health and welfare under then-Gov. Reagan. He left public service in 1974 to deal arms to the shah's Iran.

In April of this year, former Israeli intelligence officer Ari Ben-Menashe told "In These Times" that Brian was one of two 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign representatives who in early 1980 approached Iran about striking a deal to have the 52 American hostages seized by Iranian students in November 1979 held until after the 1980 U.S. presidential election. (See "In These Times," April 17.)

Ben-Menashe claims that the second U.S. campaign representative was Robert McFarlane, who in 1983 became Reagan's national security adviser. Both Brian and McFarlane, according to Ben-Menashe, "worked very closely" with Robert Gates--a man who at the time was an aide to then-President Jimmy Carter's CIA Director Stansfield Turner and whom Bush has now nominated to replace CIA Director William Webster.

It has also been reported that Brian and Gates participated in

negotiations in Paris in October 1980 where the alleged arms-for-hostages deal was finalized.

For a while, Inslaw's business went smoothly. In March 1982 the company won a \$10 million, three-year contract with the Justice Department to install Promis in the nation's 20 largest U.S. attorneys' offices. But the department disputed the validity of several Inslaw bills and on technical grounds held back \$2 million in payments to the company. In February 1985, the company went bankrupt and filed for protection from its creditors under Chapter 11. Inslaw, with financing from IBM, emerged from Chapter 11 reorganization in late 1988 as a viable company.

Inslaw claims, and two federal judges have agreed, that the Justice Department stole the software, tried to push Inslaw into bankruptcy and thus force a Promis fire sale, and attempted to acquire Inslaw by takeover, friendly and otherwise.

INSLAW ONSLAUGHT: In 1986, Inslaw took its case to a federal bankruptcy court and filed a suit against the Justice Department. On Sept. 28, 1987, federal bankruptcy Judge Bason ruled from the bench in Inslaw's favor, finding, "The failure [of the Justice Department] even to begin to investigate [these charges] is outrageous and indefensible and constitutes an institutional decision by the Department of Justice at the highest level simply to ignore charges of impropriety. . . . It is obvious to me . . . that the entire Department of Justice was in a circle-the-wagons defensive attitude. . . . The Department of Justice took, converted, stole Inslaw's enhanced Promis by trickery, fraud and deceit." Bason further wrote that the government did not attempt to settle the dispute honorably with Inslaw but "engaged in an outrageous, deceitful, fraudulent game of cat and mouse demonstrating contempt for the law and any principle of fair dealing."

In February 1988, Bason awarded Inslaw \$6.8 million in license fees for the 42 copies of the company's software that he determined had been stolen. He also ordered the Justice Department to pay Inslaw \$1.2 million in legal fees. That was the last month Bason served as a judge. He was denied reappointment without explanation by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C.

(On Dec. 5, 1990, Bason testified before the House Judiciary Committee: "I have come to believe that my non-reappointment as bankruptcy judge was the result of improper influence from within

the Justice Department which the current appointment process failed to prevent. The judicial opinions that I rendered reflected my sense of moral outrage that, as the evidence showed and as I held, the Justice Department stole Inslaw's valuable property and tried to drive Inslaw out of business. . . . I don't have knowledge as to how it might have been done, but we do have a dead body and do have a strong motive. . . . Such retaliation is the mark of a police state, not of democratic America.")

Bason was the first of four bankruptcy judges to handle the case. The other three "recused" themselves without explanation.

The Justice Department immediately appealed Bason's 1988 final decision to the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., and in November 1989, U.S. District Judge William B. Bryant affirmed the lower court's decision, ruling that it was "strikingly apparent . . . that Inslaw performed its contract in a hostile environment that extended from the higher echelons of the Justice Department. . . . The government acted willfully and fraudulently to obtain property that it was not entitled to under contract."

The Justice Department then appealed Bryant's ruling, this time to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. On May 7 of this year, a three-judge panel on the Court of Appeals overturned the previous courts' decisions, saying the federal bankruptcy court lacked the jurisdiction to hear the case.

Hamilton says Inslaw will ask for a reconsideration of that ruling by all 11 judges on Washington, D.C.'s Circuit Court of Appeals. If necessary, he says, the company will take its case to the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, Hamilton says, Inslaw will likely file a new suit against the Justice Department in federal court.

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR? In December 1989, Inslaw attorney Elliot Richardson submitted a writ of mandamus to the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., calling for a formal government investigation. Coming from Richardson, this writ carried special weight. Richardson is the former U.S. attorney general who at the start of the Watergate investigation resigned his post rather than fire Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox as President Richard Nixon had ordered.

Richardson wants the court to order U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh to appoint a prosecutor not already tainted by the Inslaw scandal to conduct a fair and thorough investigation of the

government misconduct.

"I've long believed there should be a special prosecutor [in this case]," Richardson told "In These Times" in a recent interview. "I have never been able to understand why they have so strenuously resisted any suggestion that they should seek to correct what two courts have found to be seriously wrong and what additional evidence has reinforced or extended."

In his writ, Richardson wrote, in part: "The combination of high-level hostility and lower-level vindictiveness does not sufficiently account for the persistence and tenacity of the attempts to wrest control of Promis from Inslaw. . . . Attempts to acquire control of Promis were linked by a conspiracy among friends of Attorney General Meese to take advantage of their relationship with him for the purpose of obtaining a lucrative contract for the automation of the Department's litigating divisions."

Richardson went on to spell out the links between Meese and businessman Earl Brian, noting, for example, that Hadron Inc., a subsidiary of Brian's Biotech Capital Corp., launched an unsuccessful bid to take over Inslaw. Richardson wrote that when Inslaw President Hamilton refused the offer, the chairman of Hadron told Hamilton, "We have ways of making you sell." Subsequently, Richardson wrote, Justice Department officials "attempted to push Inslaw into liquidation" and, failing that, "encouraged a Pennsylvania-based computer-services company to launch a hostile takeover bid for Inslaw."

Says Hamilton, "It can be inferred that the ringleader of the Reagan-Bush supporters who is supposed to get [the Promis software] is Earl Brian."

PROMIS TO ISRAEL: In a March 21 affidavit on behalf of Inslaw, Ari Ben-Menashe, the former Israeli intelligence official, said that as part of his work with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)/Military Intelligence External Relations Department, he was in contact with Raefael Eitan, the anti-terrorism adviser to then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

The affidavit said, in reference to a meeting with Eitan on December 1982, "Eitan told me that he had received earlier that year in the U.S., from Earl W. Brian and Robert McFarlane, Promis computer software for the limited use of the IDF's Signals Intelligence Unit for intelligence purposes only." (It was at this meeting that Ben-Menashe claimed Eitan had told him that Israel

"had special [paid] relationships with both Brian and McFarlane."
See "The First Stone," page 4.)

In an April 4 affidavit, Ben-Menashe shed light on Promis' potential uses in the field of espionage. He explained that during the above-mentioned meeting Eitan boasted that he had earlier convinced Brian to sell Promis to Jordan's military intelligence service. Ben-Menashe said that he had already known Jordan was using the software and that "the sale of Promis to Jordanian military intelligence and its use by Jordanian military intelligence were extremely important to Israeli intelligence and were elements of an Israeli intelligence operation against the government of Jordan."

In a February 17 affidavit, Ben-Menashe alleged that in 1987 Brian sold Promis to Israel for internal use. According to Ben-Menashe, he met Brian at a 1987 meeting in External Relations Department headquarters and at that meeting Brian explained how the Promis software could be successfully intergrated into an intelligence agency.

"Brian stated during his presentation that all U.S. intelligence agencies, including the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice, were then using the Promis computer software," said Ben-Menashe in his affidavit. "Brian also stated that he, a private U.S. businessman, had acquired the property rights to the Promis computer software and allowed U.S. and Israeli intelligence communities to use the Promis computer software as early as 1982 for intelligence purposes only."

BETWEEN IRAQ AND A SOFTWARE: Ben-Menashe also claimed knowledge of the alleged sale in 1987 or 1988 of the Promis software by Brian to Iraqi military intelligence. In an affidavit, Ben-Menashe said he learned of the alleged exchange while working in Chile for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office as a special consultant for intelligence affairs. He said, "In January 1989, Carlos Carduen . . . of Carduen Industries . . . stated to me that he brokered a deal between Dr. Brian, holder of property rights to the Promis computer software, and a representative of Iraqi military intelligence for the use of the Promis computer software by Iraqi military intelligence."

Another person claiming knowledge of the alleged sale of Promis software to Iraq is Richard H. Babayan, an Iranian arms dealer now imprisoned in Palm Beach County jail awaiting trial on securities

fraud. In a March 22 affidavit for Inslaw, Babayan said he attended a meeting in Baghdad in the fall of 1987 with Abu Mohammed, whom he described as "a senior ranking official of Entezamat, an intelligence and security organ of the government of Iraq and a person with whom I had extensive dealings over the previous three years."

Babayan said Mohammed told him that "Dr. Earl W. Brian of the U.S. had recently completed a sales presentation to the government of Iraq regarding the Promis computer software. Furthermore, it is my understanding that others present at Dr. Brian's Promis sales presentation were [U.S. Army] Gen. Richard Secord."

Babayan also said that he "attended a meeting in Santiago, Chile, in December 1988, with Carlos Carduen of Carduen Industries." Babayan said that Carduen told him he had "just completed a meeting in Santiago [with] Brian of the U.S. and Robert Gates, senior American intelligence and national-security official."

WORLDWIDE PROMIS: Inslaw President Bill Hamilton says his company has information indicating that its software has been illegally sold to South Korea, Libya, Jordan, Great Britain, Germany, France, Australia, Thailand, Japan, Chile, Guatemala, Brazil and Canada.

In the case of Canada, the company has documentation. On January 8 of this year, "Communications Canada--The Canadian Workplace Automation Research Centre" (CWARC) wrote Inslaw a letter that read, in part, "CWARC is aware that your company's software products are being used in federal departments and agencies. This is why we would appreciate your help in obtaining accurate information on these products. Your cooperation in providing the information requested will allow us to build a product file that can be accessed by those interested in acquiring new software and updating their office systems." Inslaw, however, never sold Promis to Canada.

In a court affidavit, Patricia Hamilton, daughter of Bill Hamilton, swore that she was told by Dennis LeChance of Canada's Department of Communications that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are operating Inslaw's Promis software in 900 locations in Canada.

CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER: On March 21 of this year, Michael Riconosciuto, who has been described in the media as a weapons-systems designer, software specialist and computerized money

launderer, explained in a sworn affidavit for Inslaw that one of his jobs when he was director of research for the Wackenhut Corp. of Coral Gables, Fla., was to adapt Promis software.

He said, "Among the frequent visitors [to Wackenhut] were Peter Videnieks of the U.S. Department of Justice [the Promis contracting officer] and a close associate of Videnieks by the name of Earl W. Brian. Brian is a private businessman who lives in Maryland and who has maintained close business ties with the U.S. intelligence community for many years." According to Riconosciuto, in 1983-84 the Justice Department asked him to develop and modify the Promis software. He claimed in the affidavit that the software he worked with was given to him by Brian, who, in turn, got it from Videnieks.

Riconosciuto said in the affidavit that he modified the software for "the implementation of Promis in law enforcement and intelligence agencies worldwide. . . . Some of the modifications that I made were specifically designed to facilitate the implementation of Promis in . . . the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service." He also alleged that Brian "was spearheading the plan for this world-wide use of the Promis computer software" and alleged that Brian had sold Promis to Canada. According to Hamilton, Riconosciuto told him one year ago of Brian's role in the alleged 1980 arms-for-hostages deal.

Riconosciuto further said in his affidavit that last February, Videnieks called him and tried to persuade him "not to cooperate with an independent [House Judiciary Committee] investigation of the government's piracy of Inslaw's proprietary Promis software." He alleged that Videnieks outlined a variety of rewards and punishments that awaited him, depending on Riconosciuto's course of action.

Seven days after swearing this affidavit and before testifying to House Judiciary Committee investigators, Riconosciuto was arrested and charged with selling more than four grams of metamphetamine, a potent speed. Prior to his arrest, Riconosciuto had claimed that he had tape-recorded the alleged threats from Videnieks. He now claims that two of three copies of that tape were seized when he was arrested. After his arrest, committee investigators interviewed Riconosciuto from jail. He is currently awaiting trial in U.S. District Court in Seattle without bail.

BLIND JUSTICE? The Justice Department could appoint, as Elliot Richardson has suggested, an independent prosecutor to investigate the Inslaw affair. But judging from the department's past history, such action is unlikely.

The House Judiciary Committee has been investigating the Inslaw case since August 1989, but it has yet to subpoena any evidence.

"I think Congress should issue subpoenas compelling the production of evidence that various informants on many occasions said they are about to produce," Richardson says. "These informants keep promising to produce evidence. The only way to produce that evidence is to subpoena it."

The committee, however, has used the threat of subpoena to pressure the Justice Department to release records pertinent to the case.

In late April, the Judiciary Committee convinced Attorney General Thornburgh to release more than 200 pages of documents relating to the Inslaw case. For more than a year Thornburgh, invoking attorney-client privilege, had claimed that the documents were being withheld because of Inslaw's ongoing legal battle. The attorney general relented only after Judiciary Committee Chairman Jack Brooks (D-TX) announced last December that he would "take whatever steps necessary"--such as subpoenaing Thornburgh--to ensure that the committee obtained the requested documents. Brooks further suggested that the Justice Department's reticence "could be described as coverup."

ABOVE THE LAW: Two federal judges have found that the Justice Department stole Inslaw's software. But if the government takes the official position that this act of piracy was carried out in the name of national security--as part of a National Security Agency (NSA) scheme to infiltrate the files of foreign intelligence services--then the Justice Department could block further judicial scrutiny.

When Congress established the NSA in 1959, it put the agency above the law, decreeing, "Nothing in this act or any other law . . . shall be construed to require the disclosure of the organization or any function of the National Security Agency [or] of any information with respect to the activities thereof."

The "St. Louis Post-Dispatch," which has assigned reporter Phil Linsalata to cover the alleged Inslaw and 1980 scandals, has called for a congressional inquiry to "alert the public to the

pervasiveness of underground government, both legal and illegal." As the May 13 editorial put it, "If a subterranean network of operatives [like that exposed in the Iran-contra investigation] still exists, carrying out secret government policies, the very survival of a democratic political system based on law requires that it be exposed to the light. [The Inslaw case] may reveal part of an illegal policy that was put in place even before the Reagan administration had taken office. That is why Congress must try to find out the truth behind [allegations that the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign arranged a secret arms-for-hostages deal with Iran]."

Only when these allegations are brought to light can justice be served.

"IN THESE TIMES" MAY 29-JUNE 11, 1991

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daveus rattus

yer friendly neighborhood ratman

KOYAANISQATSI

ko.yan.nis.qatsi (from the Hopi Language) n. 1. crazy life. 2. life in turmoil. 3. life out of balance. 4. life disintegrating. 5. a state of life that calls for another way of living.

Date: Tue, 8 Oct 1991 15:15:57 CDT
Reply-To: dave 'who can do? ratmandu!' ratcliffe
<dave@ratmandu.corp.sgi.com>
Sender: Activists Mailing List <ACTIV-L@UMCVMB.BITNET>
From: dave 'who can do? ratmandu!' ratcliffe
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Subject: the INSLAW Case: Software to Die For

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Keywords: what do the words "with liberty and justice for all" really mean?
Lines: 374

"The key thing about the death of Casolaro," Richardson continues, is that "although others were seeking to delineate . . . the 'octopus' [Casolaro's term for the wide-ranging conspiracy], he was the only one who told people who have no reason to misrepresent what he said that he had hard evidence, and was on the point of getting conclusive evidence. No one else made that claim. . . . He told four people, one at a time. The idea that he committed suicide with a razor blade under these circumstances seems highly implausible."

"This is a case in which any one of a number of potential defendants would have every reason to commit murder," says Richardson, "and in which the litigants have every reason to fear for their lives."

. . . The issue goes straight to the White House and involves officials at the highest levels of the Justice Department in what appears to be a deliberate campaign of intimidation, theft, and corruption. By now, that ought to have led to a serious congressional investigation.

Unlike Iran-contra, no one in this case has pleaded national security as a defense, though that's likely before it's over. But in a sense, it is already too late for that. The facts are too well-delineated. If the opinions of two judges are correct, this case ought to result in criminal indictments of past and present Justice officials.

from the September 24, 1991 issue of the "Village Voice:"

MOVING TARGET James Ridgeway

Software To Die For

Inslaw Lawyer Elliot Richardson Talks About Murder and the CIA

WASHINGTON--"It is far worse than Watergate," says Elliot Richardson, the former attorney general who stood up to President Richard Nixon during that Republican scandal. "For Christ's sake, this October Surprise business we are talking about is [built from] truly horrible things . . . I don't know whether it's true or not. [But] there are a number of elements in the situation that are hard to account for."

Convinced that freelance journalist Danny Casolaro, who claimed to have uncovered a sprawling conspiracy linking the October Surprise and the Iran-contra scandal to a contract dispute between the Justice Department and a software company named Inslaw, was murdered in a West Virginia hotel last month, Richardson has asked the Justice Department to open a federal investigation into his death. But even though Richardson, who is Inslaw's attorney, has made both informal and direct personal pleas to acting attorney general William P. Barr for a full investigation, he has so far received no reply.

And that's not the first time that Richardson has been ignored by the Justice Department. Richardson wrote former attorney general Dick Thornberg in 1989 seeking an independent counsel in the Inslaw case; Thornberg never replied.

"I have never understood why . . . I mean, I was attorney general when Thornberg was a U.S. attorney. I appointed him chairman of a committee of U.S. attorneys, newly formed for the first time. I am a responsible former public official. I am not a wild-eyed nut."

So why didn't Thornberg respond to Richardson's letter?

"You tell me. I would have responded to a responsible lawyer whether I ever met him or not." When asked if he thought the lack of a reply was insulting, Richardson said, "Certainly. Let's say it's not easily explained, OK?"

"The key thing about the death of Casolaro," Richardson continues, is that "although others were seeking to delineate . . . the 'octopus' [Casolaro's term for the wide-ranging conspiracy], he was the only one who told people who have no reason to misrepresent what he said that he had hard evidence, and was on the point of getting conclusive evidence. No one else made that claim. . . . He told four people, one at a time. The idea that he committed suicide with a razor blade under these circumstances seems highly implausible."

The investigation of Casolaro's death is still in the hands of the West Virginia authorities, who ruled it a likely suicide August 14. But it is already apparent that there is more than meets the eye to both the freelancer's "suicide" and the Inslaw case--and that sealing a 10-year-old cover-up isn't necessarily the only conceivable motive.

"This is a case in which any one of a number of potential defendants would have every reason to commit murder," says Richardson, "and in which the litigants have every reason to fear for their lives."

THE ORIGINS of the dispute over Inslaw, at least, are clearly understood. A former analyst with the National Security Agency and onetime contract employee of the CIA (where he prepared analyses of the foreign press), Bill Hamilton founded Inslaw in the early 1970s with his wife, Nancy. Inslaw was initially begun with grants from the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration; when Congress killed LEAA in 1980, the Hamiltons transformed Inslaw into a for-profit firm and continued to do business with Justice on a contract basis. Today, they are business partners with IBM.

By that time they had developed a software package called Promis that enabled law enforcement agencies to-keep up-to-the-minute tabs on cases as they wound their way through the courts. It was designed for district attorneys in large cities, and had been installed on a pilot basis in two large U.S. attorneys' offices. With Promis, a U.S. attorney could sit before a computer screen and quickly find where any particular case stood, locate defendants and witnesses, track every motion, and even follow an ongoing investigation from its history down to the detective's most recent report. As computers became smaller, increasing efficiency and speed, the Hamiltons modified Promis, adding new functions and making it speedier and more flexible.

In 1982, Inslaw signed a \$10 million contract to install Promis in U.S. attorney offices across the country. At first Justice balked at paying fees for what it argued was public domain software that had been developed under LEAA grants, but on advice of its own counsel, the department ultimately agreed to pay for the proprietary, enhanced version of Promis--whenever it was used.

Despite this agreement, the Justice Department's contracting officer steadfastly refused to pay Inslaw for the use of Promis, and by 1985 it had withheld nearly \$2 million from the Hamiltons. At that point Inslaw sought refuge in Chapter 11 bankruptcy and proceeded to sue Justice. In January 1988 the Bankruptcy Court awarded Inslaw \$6.8 million in damages plus counsel fees. Justice appealed that ruling, but in November 1989 the federal district court for the District of Columbia upheld the Bankruptcy Court's findings. Nevertheless, last spring the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the case had been tried in the wrong courts for the past several years, and must be retried; Inslaw is appealing to the Supreme Court, and if that fails, the Hamiltons will file a new, expanded suit.

While on this level the Inslaw affair appears to be a fairly typical contract dispute, in fact the case has been marked from the beginning with extraordinary behind-the-scenes politicking to wrest control of Promis from Inslaw. First, the Justice Department refused to recognize Inslaw as the rightful owner of the software it had developed; then the chair of Hadron Inc., a software outfit controlled by a friend of then-attorney general Edwin Meese, tried to buy the program from Inslaw. When Hamilton refused, Hadron's chair told him, "We have ways of making you sell."

Next, a venture capital firm, citing high-level Reagan administration connections, tried to inveigle the Hamiltons into signing over their voting rights on Inslaw stock. When the Justice Department's refusal to pay fees forced the company into Chapter 11, Justice officials didn't let up. They tried to force Inslaw into a Chapter 7 liquidation, which would have finished off the company completely. And when that didn't work, Justice officials encouraged a Pennsylvania computer company to launch its own hostile takeover bid.

Why such a fuss over computer software? In its court filings Inslaw alleges it is a victim of a conspiracy by Meese and his friends, who stole Promis to make money. Chief among Meese's cronies in the affair was Earl Brian, currently chair of embattled

Infotech, Inc., which has large holdings in the bankrupt Financial News Network and United Press International--not to mention Hadron, the company that tried to buy Promis from Inslaw.

A combat surgeon in Vietnam, Brian was appointed secretary of California's Department of Health and Welfare in 1970 by then-governor Ronald Reagan. When Reagan moved to the White House--with Meese as his counsel--Brian served as the unpaid chair of a task force on health care cost reduction; Brian also served along with Meese as a member of a "pro-competition" committee in the White House. Edwin Thomas, another longtime Meese associate who had worked for Meese at the University of San Diego Law School and a member of Reagan's California cabinet, joined them on the Reagan transition team in 1980. The relationships between these three Californians first created a stir when Meese went before the Senate to be confirmed as attorney general in 1984.

An investigation by an independent counsel revealed a suspicious series of events. Early in 1981, Thomas lent Mrs. Ursula Meese \$15,000; at the time, Thomas was working directly for Meese as assistant counsel to the president. Before he made the loan, Thomas discussed Brian's Infotech (then operating under the name of Biotech Capital Corp.) with Mrs. Meese, and despite the fact that the Meeses were hard up for cash, she promptly took the money Thomas had loaned her and bought Biotech shares for her two children. Meese, who knew about the loan, did not report it on his financial disclosure forms.

Then, in July 1981, Brian loaned Thomas \$100,000. In addition, Thomas made calls to the Small Business Administration on behalf of a loan application from a Biotech subsidiary; the SBA eventually granted the loan. No wrongdoing was ever adjudged in any of this.

In its court briefs, Inslaw cites the assertions of various Justice officials connecting Meese, Brian, and Hadron, Inc., with the harassment of the Hamiltons' company. One whistleblower even called a senator to warn that, once Meese was made attorney general, he would award a friend with a "massive sweetheart contract" to install Promis in every litigation office of the Justice Department. After Meese was named AG, the chief investigator of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Ronald LeGrand, called Hamilton to pass on a warning. He said that an unnamed senior official at Justice--whom LeGrand had known for years and trusted--had told LeGrand that the Inslaw case was "a lot dirtier for the Department of Justice than Watergate was, both in its breadth and its depth."

Up to this point, the Inslaw case still appears to be little more than a contract dispute with overtones of political corruption. But it doesn't stop there. As it turns out, there is considerable reason to suspect that while Promis may have been meant as a plum for one of Meese's cronies, it may also have played a role in an international espionage operation conducted by the CIA. And that's where the case really begins to get interesting.

ACCORDING TO THE HAMILTONS, a high government official, nearly speechless in his disgust, dropped by to tell them he had discovered that the theft of Promis had actually begun with the military. The British and U.S. navies needed a software program to conduct their zone defense against Soviet submarines in the North Atlantic, according to their informant. All Soviet subs leave from the same base near the Arctic circle, where they are easily detected, and have to run a gauntlet of listening devices in the deep waters between Iceland and Ireland before they break out into the open ocean. With the help of painstakingly accurate maps of the seafloor, the Russians have long been able to run through the intricate twists and turns of the deep marine trenches near Iceland at such speeds that they are usually able to lose their trackers. American and British subs needed a computer program that would allow them to follow every move of a Soviet sub and project its course and position; they tried everything available, but no software could follow all the variables quickly enough. Out of curiosity, they ran a test with Promis--and it worked. So they simply appropriated the program.

That, according to the Hamiltons' source, is how the theft got started. But there is actually much more evidence to support another theory of how and why the government started playing games with Promis.

Several different former intelligence agents have told the Hamiltons about various foreign countries that suddenly started using versions of Promis in the mid-1980s, ranging from Iraq to South Korea. These governments could use the program not only to track criminals but for complex covert operations and to identify "undesirables"--like revolutionaries. They suggest that the CIA obtained copies of the Promis software from the Justice Department and sold it to various police and intelligence agencies overseas; once installed, Promis actually became a high-tech bug, storing secrets of the unsuspecting host government, including intimate

details of its internal police operations and intelligence service. American agencies could then penetrate and read the software.

"It was highly adaptable to tracking information of the kind that intelligence agencies like to track," Richardson says, "and the CIA adapted it to that purpose. Then, relying on Earl Brian, [they] started peddling it to foreign intelligence agencies."

The Hamiltons got the barest inkling of the intelligence implications for the first time last year. On November 5 their daughter Patty, who is a regional sales manager for Inslaw, got a call from the Department of Communications in the Canadian federal government. They told her that Promis was widely used in Canada--it had been installed in 900 different locations--and he wondered whether she would help fill out a questionnaire about using the software in both English and French.

This was all news to Patty, since Inslaw had never sold Promis to anyone in Canada. Playing dumb, the Hamiltons filled out the questionnaire. Then, on a business trip to Montreal in January, Patty dropped in on the Department of Communications for a chat. She asked the officials about the questionnaire and where Promis was being used. The Canadians checked their codes and told her it was on line with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and with an agency they did not know.

Then Patty made an unannounced visit to the responsible official at Mountie HQ, who promptly denied all knowledge of Promis, and dismissed the Department of Communications as a bunch of "kooks." When Patty returned to Washington, Bill Hamilton tried to find out where the Canadians had gotten Promis, but suddenly everything had changed: The Department of Communications begged forgiveness for their error, saying it wasn't the Mounties at all but the international development office that was using Promis. When Hamilton told them the software had never been sold to anybody in Canada, they backtracked, apologized once again, and said that, in fact, no one was using it.

That's when Michael J. Riconosciuto, a researcher and self-described arms expert, came forward. Riconosciuto had first called Inslaw out of the blue in the spring of 1990, and he has continued to do so from pay phones around the West. He claimed to have worked as research director for a joint venture between the Wackenhut Corporation, the big security outfit, and the Cabazon Indians, who have a reservation at Indio, California. The joint venture supposedly manufactured military material, such things as night-

vision goggles, machine guns, fuel air explosives, and biological and chemical weapons for foreign governments, including those in the Middle East and Central America, and for covert operations of one sort or another. The contras were to be a prime market. The Cabazon tribe enjoyed quasi-sovereign status, allowing the arms manufacturers to operate outside stringent restrictions on the manufacture of armaments in the rest of the United States. As an added sweetener, the Indians could take advantage of minority set-aside contracts.

Riconosciuto claims, in an affidavit given to Inslaw, to have made modifications on Promis software provided him by Earl Brian for both the Canadian Mounties and the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service. Brian, he says, was the man who had sold the software to the Canadians. Riconosciuto is currently in prison in Washington state awaiting trial on drug charges, and his statement would be of dubious value--except that many of the details do check out independently. For one thing, the San Francisco Chronicle ran a series of articles on the Cabazon Indians last week that seemed to bear out the claims about weapons manufacturing on the reservation.

BY THIS TIME the Hamiltons were pretty sure Promis had been pirated abroad, and they began to hear stories of Promis cropping up in all sorts of foreign countries. Ari Ben-Menashe, a former Israeli intelligence asset, provided an affidavit that says that in December 1982 Rafael Eitan, the Israeli government's counterterrorism adviser, told him he had obtained Promis from Earl Brian and Robert McFarlane, then Reagan's national security adviser. In 1987 Ben-Menashe said he was at a meeting in Israel where Brian said he owned Promis. Ben-Menashe said he had been assigned to stop a sale of chemical weapons by Chilean arms dealer Carlos Cardoen to Iraq. "Mr. Carlos Cardoen . . . stated to me that he brokered a deal between Dr. Brian and a representative of Iraqi . . . military intelligence for the use of Promis," he recalled.

Richard Babayan, an Iranian arms dealer, said in an affidavit that during 1987 he met a member of Iraqi intelligence who told him Iraq had acquired Promis from Brian on the recommendation of the Libyan government. He went on to say he was told by an official of the Korea Development Corporation, which he said was a front for the Korean CIA that Brian had sold Promis to the Koreans as well.

The Hamiltons also continue to get tips about Promis popping up all over the United States. Although it formally denies using the

program, high Justice Department officials have told the Hamiltons that FBI officials had admitted the software in their field offices is a renamed version of Promis.

The possibility of Promis being employed as an espionage tool is given further credence by the curiously disinterested attitude of government in getting to the bottom of the Inslaw mess. Inslaw itself has been unable to obtain subpoena power from the courts except for a brief period last spring, but those subpoenas were frustrated when the Appeals court threw out the case just as the deadline for Justice to turn over the documents approached. Senator Sam Nunn's Senate Permanent Investigations subcommittee conducted an investigation, but received little cooperation from Justice.

Texas congressman Jack Brooks's judiciary committee has been looking into the affair for the last two years, but only issued subpoenas last July. Brooks is believed to have interviewed Meese and his friends. According to the Hamiltons, the files of the Justice Department's chief litigating attorney on the case have disappeared.

UNLIKE THE MURKY October Surprise scandal or the compromised congressional investigations into Iran-contra, the facts in the Inslaw case are clear. Emerging from a low-level bankruptcy court, they paint a virtually indisputable case of corporate theft, political corruption, and the very real possibility of international espionage. The issue goes straight to the White House and involves officials at the highest levels of the Justice Department in what appears to be a deliberate campaign of intimidation, theft, and corruption. By now, that ought to have led to a serious congressional investigation.

Unlike Iran-contra, no one in this case has pleaded national security as a defense, though that's likely before it's over. But in a sense, it is already too late for that. The facts are too well-delineated. If the opinions of two judges are correct, this case ought to result in criminal indictments of past and present Justice officials.

As Elliot Richardson says, "Why in the world would this one group of informers ever have come together and cooked up all this stuff? How did they keep it consistent from day to day among themselves as to who told what to whom? There is a hell of a load of stuff they've told to various people, including staffers, journalists, the Hamiltons, me. The picture they paint is relatively coherent and

consistent . . . and then you add the stonewalling by the Department of Justice. I have never understood why."

--

daveus rattus

yer friendly neighborhood ratman

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ko.yan.nis.qatsi (from the Hopi Language) n. 1. crazy life. 2. life in turmoil. 3. life out of balance. 4. life disintegrating.
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Subject: the INSLAW CASE: AFFIDAVIT OF MICHAEL J. RICONOSCIUTO

The INSLAW case connects MANY aspects of the current breakdown in the system of Justice practiced in the United States. The stage was set for this debacle when RR was sworn in as prez on January 20, 1981.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN RE:)
) Case No. 85-00070
INSLAW, INC.,) (Chapter 11)
)
Debtor.)

_____)
)
INSLAW, INC.,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) Adversary Proceeding
) No. 86-0069

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
and the UNITED STATES)
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,)
)
Defendants,)

_____)

AFFIDAVIT OF MICHAEL J. RICONOSCIUTO

STATE OF WASHINGTON)

) ss:

)

I, MICHAEL J. RICONOSCIUTO, being duly sworn, do hereby state as follows:

1. During the early 1980's, I served as the Director of Research for a joint venture between the Wackenhut Corporation of Coral Gables, Florida, and the Cabazon Band of Indians in Indio, California. The joint venture was located on the Cabazon reservation.

2. The Wackenhut-Cabazon joint venture sought to develop and/or manufacture certain materials that are used in military and national security operations, including night vision goggles, machine guns, fuel-air explosives, and biological and chemical warfare weapons.

EXHIBIT 1

3. The Cabazon Band of Indians are a sovereign nation. The sovereign immunity that is accorded the Cabazons as a consequence of this fact made it feasible to pursue on the reservation the development and/or manufacture of materials whose development or manufacture would be subject to stringent controls off the reservation. As a minority group, the Cabazon Indians also provided the Wackenhut Corporation with an enhanced ability to obtain federal contracts through the 8A Set Aside Program, and in connection with Government-owned contractor-operated (GOCO) facilities.

4. The Wackenhut-Cabazon joint venture was intended to support the

needs of a number of foreign governments and forces, including forces and governments in Central America and the Middle East. The Contras in Nicaragua represented one of the most important priorities for the joint venture.

5. The Wackenhut-Cabazon joint venture maintained close liason with certain elements of the United States Government, including representatives of intelligence, military and law enforcement agencies.

6. Among the frequent visitors to the Wackenhut-Cabazon joint venture were Peter Videnieks of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and a close associate of Videnieks by the name of Earl W. Brian. Brian is a private businessman who lives in Maryland and who has maintained close business ties with the U.S. intelligence community for many years.

7. In connection with my work for Wackenhut, I engaged in some software development and modification work in 1983 and 1984 on the proprietary PROMIS computer software product. The copy of PROMIS on which I worked came from the U.S. Department of Justice. Earl W. Brian made it available to me through Wackenhut after acquiring it from Peter Videnieks, who was then a Department of Justice contracting official with responsibility for the PROMIS software. I performed the modifications to PROMIS in Indio, California; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Miami, Florida.

8. The purpose of the PROMIS software modifications that I made in 1983 and 1984 was to support a plan for the implementation of PROMIS in law enforcement and intelligence agencies worldwide. Earl W. Brian was spearheading the plan for this worldwide use of the PROMIS computer software.

9. Some of the modifications that I made were specifically designed to facilitate the implementation of PROMIS within two agencies of the Government of Canada: the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS). Earl W. Brian would check with me from time to time to make certain that the work would be completed in time to satisfy the schedule for the RCMP and CSIS implementations of PROMIS.

10. The proprietary versions of PROMIS, as modified by me, was, in fact, implemented in both the RCMP and the CSIS in Canada. It was my understanding that Earl W. Brian had sold this version of PROMIS to the Government of Canada.

11. In February 1991, I had a telephone conversation with Peter Videnieks, then still employed by the U.S. Department of Justice. Videnieks attempted during this telephone conversation to persuade me not to cooperate with an independent investigation of the government's piracy of INSLAW's proprietary PROMIS software being conducted by the Committee on the Judiciary of the U.S. House of Representatives.

12. Videnieks stated that I would be rewarded for a decision not to cooperate with the House Judiciary Committee investigation. Videnieks forecasted an immediate and favorable resolution of a protracted child custody dispute being prosecuted against my wife by her former husband, if I were to decide not to cooperate with the House Judiciary Committee investigation.

13. Videnieks also outlined specific punishments that I could expect to receive from the U.S. Department of Justice if I cooperate with the House Judiciary Committee's investigation.

14. One punishment that Videnieks outlined was the future inclusion of me and my father in a criminal prosecution of certain business associates of mine in Orange County, California, in connection with the operation of a savings and loan institution in Orange County. By way of underscoring his power to influence such decisions at the U.S. Department of Justice, Videnieks informed me of the indictment of these business associates prior to the time when that indictment was unsealed and made public.

15. Another punishment that Videnieks threatened against me if I cooperate with the House Judiciary Committee [sic] is prosecution by the U.S. Department of Justice for perjury. Videnieks warned me that credible witnesses would come forward to contradict any damaging claims that I made in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, and that I would subsequently be prosecuted for perjury by the U.S. Department of Justice for my testimony before the House Judiciary Committee.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

[Michael J. Riconosciuto]

Michael J. Riconosciuto

Signed and sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 1991.

[John M. Rosellini]

Notary Public

[Sept 19, 1993]

My Commission Expires: _____

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daveus rattus

yer friendly neighborhood ratman

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) Case No. 85-00070
INSLAW, INC.,) (Chapter 11)
Debtor.)
_____)
)
INSLAW, INC.,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
) Adversary Proceeding
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) No. 86-0069
and the UNITED STATES)
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,)
)
Defendants,)
_____)

AFFIDAVIT OF ARI BEN-MENASHE

STATE OF KENTUCKY)

) ss:

CITY OF LEXINGTON)

I, ARI BEN-MENASHE, being duly sworn, do hereby state as follows:

1. Between August 1977 and September 1987, I was employed by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)/Military Intelligence External Relations Department.
2. In my above capacity, I had contacts with the Office of the Israeli Prime Minister's Anti-Terrorism Advisor.
3. In 1982, the Israeli Prime Minister's Anti-Terrorism Advisor was Mr. Rafael Eitan.

EXHIBIT 2

4. In a meeting that took place in December 1982 in Mr. Eitan's office in the Kirya in Tel Aviv, Israel, Mr. Eitan told me that he had received earlier that year in the United States, from Mr. Earl W. Brian and Mr. Robert McFarlane, PROMIS computer software for the limited use of the IDF's Signals Intelligence Unit for intelligence purposes only. Mr. Eitan stated on this occasion, and on earlier occasions as well, that he had special relationships with both Mr. Brian and Mr. McFarlane.

5. This meeting took place in the context of a visit by a foreign dignitary. During a break in the meeting, Mr. Eitan took me aside and gave me the above facts to relate to my superiors so that Mr. Eitan's office could take credit for the introduction of the PROMIS computer software into IDF's Signals Intelligence Unit.

6. I hereby certify that the facts set forth in this Affidavit are true

and correct to the best of my knowledge.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

[Ari Ben Menashe]

Ari Ben-Menashe

[21st]

Signed and sworn to before me this _____ day of March, 1991.

[Melissa J. Corbett]

Notary Public

[June 14th, 1994]

My Commission Expires: _____

--

daveus rattus

yer friendly neighborhood ratman

KOYAANISQATSI

ko.yan.nis.qatsi (from the Hopi Language) n. 1. crazy life. 2. life
in turmoil. 3. life out of balance. 4. life disintegrating.
5. a state of life that calls for another way of living.

Date: Tue, 8 Oct 1991 14:08:32 CDT
Reply-To: dave 'who can do? ratmandu!' ratcliffe
<dave@ratmandu.corp.sgi.com>
Sender: Activists Mailing List <ACTIV-L@UMCVMB.BITNET>
From: dave 'who can do? ratmandu!' ratcliffe
<dave@ratmandu.corp.sgi.com>
Subject: the INSLAW CASE: AFFIDAVIT OF RICHARD H. BABAYAN

The INSLAW case connects MANY aspects of the current breakdown in the system of Justice practiced in the United States. The stage was set for this debacle when RR was sworn in as prez on January 20, 1981.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN RE:)
) Case No. 85-00070
INSLAW, INC.,) (Chapter 11)
Debtor.)
_____)
)
INSLAW, INC.,)
Plaintiff,)
) Adversary Proceeding
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) No. 86-0069
and the UNITED STATES)
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,)
)
Defendants,)
_____)

AFFIDAVIT OF RICHARD H. BABAYAN

State of Florida)
) ss:
Palm Beach County)

I, Richard H. Babayan, being duly sworn, do hereby state as follows:

1. During the past several years, I have acted as a broker of sales of materials and equipment used by foreign governments in their armed forces, intelligence and security operations.
2. In the capacity described in paragraph #1, I attended a meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, in October or November, 1987, with Mr. Abu Mohammed of Entezamat, an intelligence and security organ of the Government of Iraq. Mr. Abu Mohammed is a senior ranking official of Entezamat and a person with whom I had had extensive dealings over the previous three years

EXHIBIT 3

3. During the aforementioned meeting with Mr. Abu Mohammed, I was informed that Dr. Earl W. Brian of the United States had recently completed a sales presentation to the Government of Iraq regarding the PROMIS computer software. Furthermore, it is my understanding that others present at Dr. Brian's PROMIS sales presentation were General Richard Secord, of the United States, and Mr. Abu Mohammed.

4. In early to mid-1988, in the course of subsequent visits to Baghdad, Iraq, I was informed that Dr. Earl W. Brian had, in fact, provided

the PROMIS computer software to the Government of Iraq through a transaction that took place under the umbrella of Mr. Sarkis Saghalian, an individual who has had extensive business dealings with the Government of Iraq since the late 1970's in the fields of military hardware and software. I was also informed that the Government of Iraq acquired the PROMIS software for use primarily in intelligence services, and secondarily in police and law enforcement agencies.

5. During the course of the visits described in paragraph #4, I also learned from Mr. Abu Mohammed that the Government of Libya had acquired the PROMIS computer software prior to its acquisition by the Government of Iraq; that the Government of Libya had by then made extensive use of PROMIS; and that the Government of Libya was highly recommending the PROMIS software to other countries. I was informed that the high quality of the reference for the PROMIS software from the Government of Libya was one of the principal reasons for the decision of the Government of Iraq to acquire PROMIS.

6. In the capacity described in paragraph #1, I attended a meeting in early 1988 in Singapore with Mr. Y. H. Nam of the Korea Development Corporation.

7. The Korea Development Corporation is known to be a cutout for the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA).

8. I learned from Mr. Y. H. Nam during the meeting described in paragraph #6 that the KCIA had acquired the PROMIS computer software, and that Dr. Earl W. Brian of the United States had been instrumental in the acquisition and implementation of PROMIS by the KCIA.

9. In the capacity described in paragraph #1, I attended a meeting in Santiago, Chile, in December, 1988, with Mr. Carlos Carduen of Carduen Industries. During this meeting, I was informed by Mr. Carduen that Dr. Earl W. Brian of the United States and Mr. Robert Gates, a senior American intelligence and national security official, had just completed a meeting in Santiago, Chile, with Mr. Carlos Carduen.

10. I hereby certify that the facts set forth in this Affidavit are true

and correct to the best of my knowledge.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

[R. Babayan]

Richard A. Babayan

[22]

Signed and sworn to before me this ____ day of March, 1991.

[Milton E. Shepard]

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA
MY COMMISSION EXP, NOV.15,1991
BONDED THRU GENERAL INS. UNO.

--

daveus rattus

yer friendly neighborhood ratman

KOYAANISQATSI

ko.yan.nis.qatsi (from the Hopi Language) n. 1. crazy life. 2. life
in turmoil. 3. life out of balance. 4. life disintegrating.
5. a state of life that calls for another way of living.

Article 5201 (20 more) in soc.rights.human:

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,soc.culture.usa,soc.rights.human

Subject: Part I, Are 2,000 American POW's About to be Put to Death?

Keywords: the possible extermination of American POW's in Laos

Message-ID: <1991Dec4.143808.11313@cbnewsl.cb.att.com>

Date: 4 Dec 91 14:38:08 GMT

Followup-To: alt.conspiracy

Distribution: na

Organization: AT&T Bell Laboratories

Lines: 118

If you were told that someone in your family was about to be killed, what would be your response? Would you say: "That's preposterous. I refuse to listen to any more about it." Or would you say: "I cannot know whether you're right or wrong. So I must investigate further until I believe that either you are wrong or you are right. And if you're right, I will do whatever I can to prevent the death of my loved one.

Well, that's the sort of dilemma that now confronts not only me but every conscientious American who will learn of a newspaper story which I recently read (and I'll cite the news source at the end of this article). It is one of the most mortifying stories I have ever known.

The story explained the very strong possibility that an estimated two thousand American prisoners of war, held in Laos, will be executed by the Vietnamese Government at the behest of the Government of the United States. I know it sounds preposterous and scurrilous, but there are two other stories, which I have learned, that tend to support this shocking accusation.

I learned one of these two supporting stories fortuitously. Upon reading the newspaper story, I felt compelled to seek out more information through Vietnam veterans' organizations. So I gathered a list and began calling. I first called Vietnam Veterans of America and spoke with John Minnick. He expressed amazement and

a bit of annoyance that any publication would print such a story, although he told me emphatically that our government had acted unconscionably during the many years of the POW/MIA issue and that some of our officials ought to be imprisoned for their misdeeds against our men in captivity. He also said: " Send me a copy of that newspaper article. I really want to read it!"

The next organization I called was Vietnam Combat Veterans, Yuma, Arizona. The chairman was listed as James Rhodes. He answered the phone and after hearing me recite the first few paragraphs of the story, he said: "Well let me tell you something that might tie in with that." And he went on to tell me an astounding story.

In the early '80's, as a schoolteacher, he waged a campaign among students to raise fifty thousand dollars so that he could travel to Vietnam to pay a ransom in return for at least a few American POW's. (Now I couldn't get all the details in a brief phone conversation, so expect a few missing links in the story. However, he is mailing me a detailed account of the story which I'll post in a few days.) Upon travelling to Vietnam, he was told by Vietnamese officials that they would deal only with representatives of the United States Government. Since that episode, he had continued to cultivate contacts at the Vietnamese mission to the United States in order to gain reentry into Vietnam for a second attempt at bringing home some POW's.

Finally, he was able to gain admittance. This time the Vietnamese officials told him: Tell your United States Government officials that we will release the American POW's if the United States will rescind the embargo against Vietnam. We have given up trying to attain normalized relations with the U.S. Just rescind the embargo. Furthermore, they said: Don't try any rescue missions because you may free a few of your men, but we will wind up killing most of them. The Vietnamese had recently opened their borders to Americans who wanted to inspect the country for American prisoners. However, just prior to that concession, they had transported the POW's to Laos, a revelation I believe Jim said was made to him by the Vietnamese officials.

Jim Rhodes returned to the United States and attempted to present his vital information to the Foreign Relations Committee of the

United States Senate. He was prevented from doing so, and one of the obstructionists was Sen. McCain, himself a former POW from the Vietnam War.

Jim Rhodes returned to Arizona and went on local radio with his story. Consequently, he was harrassed, ridiculed and threatened by a strong rightwing element in his locale who accused him of being a commy because he was able to get into Vietnam and visit with officials there. Three weeks after his radio revelations, the nationwide story emerged presenting photos of men in Laos who resembled missing American servicemen. I missed most of the hoopla on that story but I believe that it was thoroughly mitigated with innuendos to the effect that the photos were bogus. Jim believes that it was his publicity that forced the story out into the mass media.

Incidentally, this seems to be a common tactic of the mass media. When the lid is about to boil off of the pot, they'll lift it for you, thus releasing the pressure, and then plop the lid back on. They can then say: "See? We told the story to the public, but it turned out to be dubious." Then, whenever probing citizens' groups bring up more information in support of the story, the public's interest has already been defused with the attitude: "We've heard that story before and we're not buying it."

Jim Rhodes' garage was fire-bombed on Halloween. They [the police, I guess] said it must have been Halloween pranksters. He was accosted by a man whom he seemed to recognize from somewhere. The man warned him to lay off the story because it threatened the Government of the United States. Jim responded incredulously: "How could the return of American POW's pose a threat to the government?" The man replied: "It would bring down the government!"

Jim Rhodes was told by his school employer that there was no longer a position for him as a teacher. He has been unemployed for the past year.

Before I transcribe the newspaper article, I have to present the second of the two supportive stories. And here is where there seems to be a crucial connection between Jim Rhodes' story and the newspaper article. That is, the video titled "A NATION BETRAYED"

which was made by the most-decorated American combatant of the Vietnam War -- Bo Gritz. A transcript of this video was posted to Usenet by Jim Burnes some months back. The video shows Bo Gritz meeting in Laos with Khun Sa, the druglord of the Golden Triangle.

I'll post some very relevant excerpts from that transcript tomorrow. I just don't have the time to do it today.

John DiNardo

Article 5207 (20 more) in soc.rights.human:

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,soc.culture.usa,soc.rights.human

Subject: Part II, Are 2,000 American P.O.W.'s About To Be Put To Death?

Keywords: the possible extermination of American P.O.W.'s in Laos

Message-ID: <1991Dec5.172155.29507@cbnewsl.cb.att.com>

Date: 5 Dec 91 17:21:55 GMT

Followup-To: alt.conspiracy

Distribution: na

Organization: AT&T Bell Laboratories

Lines: 57

[Lt. Col. James 'Bo' Gritz]:

"YOU KNOW WHERE RICHARD ARMITAGE WENT IN 1979? HE WENT TO DOLE'S

STAFF, THEN TO REAGAN'S CAMPAIGN STAFF, AND NOW HE IS THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RIGHT UNDERNEATH MR. CARLUCCI. RICHARD ARMITAGE HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOVERY OF U.S. PRISONERS

OF WAR WAY BACK BEFORE WE ACTUALLY GOT INVOLVED WITH H. ROSS PEROT.

HE IS STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM.

HERE IT IS. A LETTER FROM KHUN SA WRITTEN TO THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, DATED 28 JUNE 1987.

I JUST WANT TO READ YOU A COUPLE OF SENTENCES:

'DURING THE PERIOD 1965 TO 1975, CIA CHIEF IN LAOS THEODORE SHACKLEY

WAS IN THE DRUG BUSINESS.' NOW THEODORE SHACKLEY WOULD HAVE BEEN

DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE OF THE CIA IF GEORGE BUSH HAD NOT BEEN APPOINTED TO THAT POST. THEODORE SHACKLEY WAS THEN POSTED AS THE

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR COVERT OPERATIONS. IT SAYS: 'SANTOS TRAFFICANTE

[MAFIOSO] ACTED AS HIS BUYING AND TRANSPORTING AGENT WHILE RICHARD

ARMITAGE HANDLED THE FINANCIAL SECTION WITH BANKS IN AUSTRALIA.'"

"ALL OF A SUDDEN THE WORDS FROM JERRY KING CAME BACK: 'TOO MANY

BUREAUCRATS DON'T WANT TO SEE AMERICAN PRISONERS RETURNED ALIVE.'

WHY? COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT!

A GUNBOAT AT MIDNIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MEKONG RIVER WITH THE

VOICE OF AMERICA SAYING THEY'RE HERE TO ABORT OUR ATTACK.

WALSH AND THE GENERAL RECAPTURED BEFORE TURNOVER."

"WHY? NOW I'LL TELL YOU WHY!

IF THIS IS TRUE, IT MEANS RICHARD ARMITAGE AND A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE THAT ARE NAMED HERE ARE THE LEAST MEN IN THE WORLD THAT

WANT TO SEE AMERICANS COME HOME. BECAUSE WHEN AMERICAN PRISONERS

OF WAR DO COME HOME -- WHETHER WE BRING THEM HOME OR THEY DRAG

THEMSELVES ACROSS THAT MEKONG RIVER SOMEHOW, AND REPORT TO THE

U.S. EMBASSY, AND AREN'T DESTROYED THERE -- WHEN THEY DO COME HOME

(BECAUSE THEY WILL) THERE WILL BE ONE HELL OF AN INVESTIGATION AS TO WHAT TOOK THE GREATEST NATION IN THE WORLD SO LONG TO BRING

HOME HEROES THAT HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS.

WHEN THAT INVESTIGATION IS CONDUCTED, IT WILL SHOW, AS KHUN SA SAYS,

THAT THESE MEN, THESE BUREAUCRATS -- APPOINTED, NOT ELECTED; APPOINTED -- HAVE BROKEN THE FAITH WITH YOU AND THIS COUNTRY AND ITS LAWS. THEY HAVE USED THEIR OFFICE AS A COVER TO RUN DRUGS

AND ARMS TO PROMOTE COVERT OPERATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS DID NOT APPROVE OF. IT'S THE PARALLEL GOVERNMENT.

NOW THAT MAY BE ALRIGHT. BUT I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING!

IT'S NOT ALRIGHT TO LEAVE HUNDREDS OF AMERICANS TO DIE ALONE IN THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY BY A BUNCH OF WIMPS WHO WERE NEVER THERE."

(to be continued)

The preceding excerpts are from a transcript of the video,
A NATION BETRAYED, which was posted to Usenet by:
jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com (Jim Burnes)
Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy
Subject: A NATION BETRAYED - PART 1
Date: 28 May 91 02:04:46 GMT
Message ID: <1991May28 . 020446 . 1637@swbatl.sbc.com>

* * * * *

transcribed by John DiNardo

Article #27180 (27192 is last):

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

N e w s g r o u p s :

alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,soc.culture.usa,soc.rights.human

Subject: Part III, Are 2,000 American P.O.W.'s About To Be Put To Death?

Date: Fri Dec 6 13:24:38 1991

The following excerpts are from a transcript of the video,

A NATION BETRAYED:

* * * * *

COL. JAMES 'BO' GRITZ:

What I want to tell you very quickly is something that I feel is more heinous than the Bataan death march. Certainly it is of more concern to you as Americans than the Watergate. What I'm talking about is something we found out in Burma - May 1987. We found it out from a man named Khun Sa. He is the recognized overlord of heroin in the world. Last year he sent 900 tons of opiates and heroin into the free world. This year it will be 1200 tons.

[video showing discussion at Khun Sa's headquarters -- some translation of Burmese to English going on. Bo Gritz still narrating in foreground.]

On video tape he said to us something that was most astounding: that US government officials have been and are now his biggest customers, and have been for the last twenty years. I wouldn't believe him. We fought a war in Laos and Cambodia even as we fought whatever it was in Vietnam. The point is that there are as many bomb holes in those two other countries as there are in Vietnam. Five hundred and fifty plus Americans were lost in Laos. Not one of them ever came home. We heard a president say, "The war is over, we are out with honor - all of the prisoners are home." and a few other lies. Now we got rid of that president, but we didn't get rid of the problem. We ran the war in Laos and Cambodia through drugs. The money that would not be appropriated by a liberal congress, was appropriated. And you know who we used for distribution? Santos Trafficante, old friend of the CIA and mobster out of Cuba and Florida. We lost the war!

Fifty-eight thousand Americans were killed. Seventy-thousand became drug casualties. In the sixties and seventies you saw an infusion of

drugs into America like never before. Where do you think the Mafia takes the heroin and opiates that it gets through its arrangement with the US government? It doesn't distribute them in Africa or Europe. This is the big money bag HERE. We're Daddy Warbucks for them. So I submit to you that the CIA has been pressed for solutions. Each time they have gone to the sewer to find it. And you can't smell like a rose when you've been playing in the cesspool. We've been embracing organized crime. Now you've all looked and heard about Ollie North, about the Contras, about nobody knowing anything.

[cut to part of Iran Contra hearings with Ollie North explaining the flow of funds from Iran to the Contras]

NORTH:

And Mr. Gorbanifar suggested several incentives to make that February transaction work. And the attractive incentive for me was the one he made that residuals could flow to support the Nicaraguan resistance.

LEGISLATOR:

Even Gorbanifar knew that you were supporting the Contras.

NORTH:

Yes he did. Isvestia knew it. The name had been in the papers in Moscow. It had been all over Danny Ortega's newscasts. Radio Havana was broadcasting it. It had been in every newspaper in the land.

LEGISLATOR:

All our enemies knew it and you wanted to keep it from the United States Congress.

NORTH:

We wanted to be able to deny a covert operation.

[end of scene]

BO GRITZ:

We have a constitution that says that the laws will be made by the Congress, enforced by the executive branch, interpreted by the judicial branch. But in reality we have an executive branch that has for more than twenty years operated in what Ollie North called a parallel government. When the Congress says no, it makes no difference.

They're gonna do it anyway. And it is special intelligence -- top secret. Why? Not because the communists don't know what were doing. It's to keep it a secret from YOU. You're not capable of making those kinds of decisions -- according to those in parallel government. The reason I know ... I was there. I've been a product of the parallel government myself.

NARRATOR:

Lieutenant Colonel James 'Bo' Gritz is the most decorated Green Beret commander of the Vietnam Era. General William Westmoreland, in writing his memoirs, singled out Bo Gritz as the "American Soldier" for his exemplary courage in combat and outstanding ingenuity in recovering a highly secret black-box the Viet Cong had taken from a crashed U-2 spy plane. The feature films "Rambo", "Uncommon Valor" and "Missing in Action" were based in part upon his real-life military experiences.

BO GRITZ:

Dick Secord, General, United States Air Force, a man I know well, said it best. Before the senate investigating committee Dick Secord was asked: If we were supporting the Contras, why were we selling them arms bought from a communist bloc nation at exorbitant profit rates?

[cut to a scene from Congressional hearings]

SENATOR:

If the purpose of the enterprise was to help the contras, why did you charge Colero a mark-up?

SECORD:

We were in business to make a living, Senator. We had to make a living. I didn't see anything wrong with it at the time. It was a commercial enterprise.

SENATOR:

Oh..I thought the purpose of the enterprise was to aid Colero's cause.

SECORD:

Can't I have two purposes? I did.

SENATOR:

Oh ... alright.

BO GRITZ:

And then Dick Secord said in his playboy interview: "I think I deserve the eight million that we made from the Iran arms sale for all the hard work I did."

If you've got to pay a patriot, you've got the wrong guy.

These are patriots for profit. There has been a guise of patriotism that a lot of people have been hiding behind. War is their business. Business has been good.

[fade to a scene from the Vietnam War]

NARRATOR:

Bo Gritz risked his life a thousand times in combat in Vietnam before he was sent by national security council staffer Tom Harvey in the White House to Burma in November of 1986 in search of American prisoners of war. He discovered instead a heroin highway and a nation betrayed by high-level American officials involved in narcotics trafficking. Tom Harvey and his superiors in the White House were not pleased with Bo's report.

[fade to a scene of Bo Gritz in a field. It appears to be in Southeast Asia. Palm trees and oxen indigenous to the area abound.]

BO GRITZ:

The thing that I was most concerned about was -- and I thought it was fantastic -- was the [Asian] general's offer to stop the flow of opium and heroin into the free world. When I asked him [assume he's talking about a conversation with Tom Harvey now] he said "That's fantastic."

There was a pause. Then he said: "Bo, there's no one here that supports that." And I said, "What?! Vice-President Bush has been appointed by President Reagan as the number one policeman to control drug entry into the United States. How can you say there's no interest and no support when we bring back a videotape with a direct interview with a man who puts 900 tons of opium and heroin across into the free world every year and is willing to stop it?" And he said, "Bo, what can I tell you? All I can tell you is there is no interest in doing that here."

Well that made me wonder. That's because it doesn't sound American and it doesn't sound right. That's when we began to do our own investigation, because for about three years people had told me -- both

75

in Washington DC and, interestingly enough, in Oklahoma City -- that the whole POW situation was being undermined by U.S. Government officials involved in drug trafficking. I wouldn't believe it. I said: "You guys aren't playing with a full deck... you've got yourselves strung out too thin." And they said: "Bo, you better listen, because for three years we've had prisoners literally within our grasp and something has happened at the last minute." (I said), "Each time, I've made every effort to cooperate with government officials. I can't believe that people in the U.S. Government would actually, either overtly or covertly, do anything to undermine a rescue operation."

Well, we're still without Prisoners of War and there is no interest, we're told, at the White House in stopping the flow of drugs coming in from the Golden Triangle into the free world.

[fade to front-page articles about Bo Gritz in PARADE Magazine and in SOLDIER OF FORTUNE]

NARRATOR:

Lieutenant Colonel Bo Gritz is no stranger to controversy. In thirty years of devoted service to the U.S. Army and to the recovery of American prisoners of war, he has encountered plenty.

.... Bo Gritz won his Green Beret in the Army Special forces by passing all courses in unconventional warfare training. After graduating from officer's candidate school, the newly-commissioned second lieutenant then insisted on Ranger training.

Assigned to the command of the first mobile South Vietnamese guerilla forces to be organized, Gritz also operated secretly in Cambodia and Laos with his force of Cambodian mercenaries, or "Bo's", as he called them. By official body count, over 450 of the enemy died as a result of Gritz's actions. His wartime records are replete with examples of Bo's concern for keeping Americans alive in a war gone mad.

As recon chief of the supersecret Delta Force, Bo was cited for valor in saving the lives of 30 U.S. infantrymen from the "Big Red One" Division. More often than not, his valor was in placing himself between the enemy and his men. According to an official military report dated 31 July 1967 submitted on then Major Gritz: "His personal bravery is legendary, exemplified by the fact that he has been awarded five silver stars and numerous other decorations for valor." In all, Bo Gritz was

awarded 62 citations for valor, five silver stars, eight bronze stars, two purple hearts and a presidential citation.

Bo was ready to sign up for a fifth tour of duty when he had a talk with General Fred Weiyan (sp?), the "daddy-rabbit" in Vietnam. As Gritz described it: "I was a major and special operations chief. I'll never forget that day. I stood there and heard that man say: 'Bo, you're not going to win the war, and neither am I.' That was the most disillusioning moment of my life. It meant that every man who had ever lost his finger or his life had lost it for nothing. I decided, on the spot, to leave Vietnam. I would not kill another enemy or risk another comrade's life."

BO GRITZ:

I've had the opportunity to do a lot of things that other officers have not. I was the first reconnaissance chief and intelligence officer for Delta Force -- commanded the first guerilla forces that went behind enemy lines. When I commanded Special Forces in Latin America, we did it exactly right. And we did exactly what men in camouflage are supposed to do. It was very natural that Harold R. Aaron (sp?) would single me out because, besides having a sixth-degree black belt in karate, I have established an ability to operate on my own. And I think when Aaron said, "Bo, we want you to do this", he understood that I'm also hard headed enough that I wouldn't cave in. He said, "I want you to consider retiring. It would only be temporary. We have overwhelming evidence now that people are still there, being held in communist prisons." Mr. H. Ross Perot had been asked by Eugene Tighe, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, to back a private mission that would look into the POW situation. Perot said, "Bo, I want you to go there. I want you to do everything you have to do. You come and tell me there aren't any prisoners of war left alive."

NARRATOR:

Bo returned from Indo-China with extensive evidence that there were indeed American prisoners of war in captivity, including a solid report of 47 at one particular camp. Perot turned the project back over to General Tighe who wrote to Secretary of Defense Harold Brown asking that the source, a Nguyen Dok Jong (sp?) be brought to the United States for a polygraph test. Brown repeated the request to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. One month later, Vance finally responded that the Commissioner of Immigration would not permit Jong into the United

States for further questioning. As Bo puts it: "Think about it. One man, not a thousand, and the Defense Intelligence Agency chief and Secretary of State can't get him into the country. That was a pretty clear signal that the military was politically handcuffed on the prisoner of war issue."

For eight years Gritz sought to find and free American POW's. He crossed five times behind enemy lines into communist Laos and Vietnam. Three times he was within moments of embracing those American heroes our government had declared dead. Each time something unexplained caused Gritz and his Operation Lazarus team to fall short, with freedom and victory in sight for the POW's.

(to be continued)

* * * * *

The preceding excerpts are from a transcript of the video,
A NATION BETRAYED, which was posted to Usenet by:
jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com (Jim Burnes)
Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy
Subject: A NATION BETRAYED - PART 1
Date: 28 May 91 02:04:46 GMT
Message ID: <1991May28 . 020446 . 1637@swbatl.sbc.com>

transcribed by John DiNardo

Article 13235 (116 more) in misc.headlines:

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,soc.ri
^Hghts.human,soc.culture.usa

Subject: Part IV, Are 2,000 American P.O.W.'s About To Be Put To Death?^[[m

Keywords: the possible extermination of Americans held captive in S.E. Asia

Message-ID: <1991Dec9.185135.29714@cbnewsl.cb.att.com>

Date: 9 Dec 91 18:51:35 GMT

Followup-To: alt.conspiracy

Distribution: na

Organization: AT&T Bell Laboratories

Lines: 179

I'm presenting excerpts from a newspaper article which warns that the Government of the United States is planning to resume relations with oil-rich Vietnam by starting out with a clean slate. That is, no longer will our officials insist that the Government of Vietnam account for our unaccounted prisoners of war. Instead, our federal politicians will announce that the Vietnamese HAVE accounted for our men. In order to prop up their big lie, our politicians -- servants of big oil -- will have to signal Vietnam to execute all of the American prisoners of war. Dead men tell no tales! But before I present the excerpts, I have to comment on the newspaper which broke the story: The Spotlight.

Any publication that promotes David Duke is ostensibly supporting neo-naziism, the newly revised Ku Klux Klan, and racial supremacism in general. If anyone can document David Duke's renunciation of his neo-nazi and Klan past, it would be an astounding revelation. You don't confess wrongfulness and atone for your sins by lamely saying: "I was young and foolish when I appeared in public wearing a Nazi uniform", and then continue to head a transparently veiled, racist political movement.

It's disgusting to see the Liberty Lobby take a noble word: populism, and turn it into a profanity. It's even more disgusting to see Bo Gritz, a great hero, affiliate himself with the Populist Party. Bo Gritz, more than anyone, should know that many thousands of American warriors and millions of human beings, covering an array

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of nationalities and ethnicities, were slaughtered by the fascist ideologies courted by the Liberty Lobby.

There are people who have tried to stigmatize me for posting stories from the Spotlight such as the one about the multiple assassinations of several U.S. Army colonels, a sergeant and a Congressman at the hands of a joint CIA/Israeli Mossad operation which stopped their victims from revealing U.S. Government drug-smuggling from Colombia to the streets of New York and L.A. via CIA Director George Bush's paid agent, Manuel Noriega. Those who say that ALL of the information in the Spotlight is taboo because of the political character of its owners and editors are throwing out the baby with the bathwater. These censors of public information make themselves friends of truth when the truth happens to appeal to them. But they become enemies of truth when the truth is spoken by someone they hate.

Nelson Mandela once said to Ted Koppel -- when the talking-head tried to stigmatize him for refusing to reverse his stand in support of the Palestinians' cause in the face of Zionist political pressure -- "Any man who can change his principles depending on with whom he is dealing ... that is not a man who can lead a nation." And any person who can either uphold or reject truth depending upon from whose mouth it emanates, that is not a person who can be trusted.

The self-appointed censors would then say: "How can you prove that this story is true?", to which any humane person would reply: "That's what we're trying to determine by demanding an impartial investigation." This story might be true, and they know it. Yet they want to allow as many as two thousand American servicemen to be exterminated just because they hate a neo-fascist group. By ostracizing people who are seeking the truth about this possible plan for genocide, these people are committing the same sins as the citizens of the Third Reich who did not participate in genocide, but who encouraged it by their approving indifference.

Conscientious people must NOT allow threats from inhumane immoral voices to intimidate them from trying to rescue the servicemen who fought, were imprisoned and who may now be executed because they believed that they were defending freedom for others and for us.

Here are excerpts from the article in the Spotlight, December 2, 1991.

* * * * *

'FINAL SOLUTION' SOUGHT FOR PROBLEM OF POW'S

A CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE ACTIVE IN POW/MIA INVESTIGATIONS DECLARED IN OPEN TESTIMONY BEFORE A SENATE COMMITTEE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING A "FINAL SOLUTION" TO THE PROBLEM OF U.S. SERVICEMEN STILL HELD CAPTIVE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

By James P. Tucker Jr.

Because of a desire to exploit the oil reserves of Indochina, the United States is trying to cover up the issue of live POW's until they are all killed next January or February, the Senate was told November 7.

This charge was made before the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs by Hamilton Gayden, a circuit court judge in Tennessee who has written a book on the subject. Gayden has long been active in efforts to bring home hundreds of the two thousand missing men who, extensive evidence shows, are still alive.

Government bureaucrats fear "the ever-present threat that the Vietnamese and Laotian leaders will disclose to the American people the existence of live Americans who still want to be repatriated," Gayden said.

POLITICALLY EXPLOSIVE

"The government is determined to declare all missing men dead because of the intense outrage that would result if the American public learned of their abandonment," Gayden said. "It is this silent yet politically explosive blackmail that dictates the purpose and policy of the agencies charged with POW/MIA affairs."

Gayden and a Laotian collaborator, Khambang Sibounheuang, who is still in Southeast Asia, have been compiling evidence of live POW's for a year and a half, submitting it to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The evidence, which they believe to be "90 percent accurate", includes photos, thumb-, finger-, and hand-prints, human hair, written messages and live witnesses.

The goal of the American Government "is for the Vietnamese and Laotians to carry out the final act. Dead men don't talk," Gayden said.

"The 'final solution' is tentatively set for January or February of next year," Gayden said his informants told him.

"We also know there is a plan to 'end-run' this committee to begin immediate talks with Vietnam," Gayden said. "I am told by an informant that the President himself will unilaterally announce the beginning of talks."

The two reasons advanced to justify immediate talks, when the avowed policy is to refuse normalization of relations until the POW/MIA issue is resolved, are that the Vietnamese are "cooperating" and "we are wasting an opportunity to develop oil reserves," Gayden said.

DIENBIENPHU BOUND

"Simultaneously, we are told, Americans being held in Southeast Asia will be removed to an area west of Dienbienphu where they will be held pending the progress and outcome of talks to normalize relations, and the 'final solution' is tentatively set for January or February of next year," Gayden said.

"We are told that our government is fully aware of this plan, and one of the essentials of this plan has already taken place -- the delay of any inquiry by this committee," Gayden said.

If, according to Gayden, the Vietnamese are satisfied with the talks, they will reward the American Government by killing all the POW's, assuring forever that none will ever tell his grim story.

"We believe we are justified in adopting the approach that the United States Government is our number-one enemy," Gayden said.

The plan to keep the knowledge of live POW's from the American people while normalizing relations with Vietnam is a classified operation code-named "Roadmap", said Jeffrey Donahue, who is active in several groups seeking their freedom.

"The proof of U.S. POW's in Laos during the war and after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords is immutable," Donahue said.

GOVERNMENT LIES

"'Roadmap' fully embodies the lie that the executive branch of government has perpetuated for so many years: No Americans were left behind alive nor are any alive today," Donahue said.

"The Defense Department and the State Department continue to perpetrate this lie so deliberately and so rigorously such that no live POW's will be brought home." Donahue said.

* * * * *

These excerpts cover the main points in the article.

I have some ideas on how concerned citizens can bring to bear substantial political pressure upon the Congress to halt the process of normalization of relations and its concomitant death march with the clock. If you want to try to save our men, please send me e-mail. You, the American people, are the only power on Earth that can save our possibly doomed men.

John DiNardo

Article 13293 (115 more) in misc.headlines:

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,
soc.rights.human,soc.culture.usa

Subject: Part V, Are 2,000 American P.O.W.'s About To Be Put To Death?

Keywords: the possible extermination of Americans held captive in S.E. Asia

Message-ID: <1991Dec11.174030.27041@cbnewsl.cb.att.com>

Date: 11 Dec 91 17:40:30 GMT

Followup-To: alt.conspiracy

Distribution: na

Organization: AT&T Bell Laboratories

Lines: 112

"All American prisoners-of-war throughout Indochina will
be released ... [with] the fullest possible accounting
for all those who are missing-in-action."

-- President Richard Nixon, January, 1973

A few months later, in April, 1973, an order from the U.S.

State Department to the Department of Defense read:

"There are no more prisoners in Southeast Asia. They are all dead."

"No Americans who fought in Vietnam are being held as captives."

-- House of Representatives Special Committee on Southeast Asia,
September, 1978

"We determined the question is not whether there are Americans
alive in Southeast Asia. The question becomes: How many are there?
Where are they? And for God's sake, let's bring them home."

-- Representative Gerald Solomon after a Congressional delegation
to Hanoi, quoted in the Chicago Tribune, February, 1986

[The preceding quotes are from the book, KISS THE BOYS GOODBYE:
HOW THE UNITED STATES BETRAYED ITS OWN P.O.W.'S IN VIETNAM,
By Monika & William Stevenson.]

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1991

* * * * *

SOVIETS SAY THEY INTERROGATED U.S. PRISONERS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 -- Current and former officials of the K.G.B. have said in interviews for an Australian television program that Soviet agents interrogated American servicemen captured in Indochina during the Vietnam War. The report said some of the interrogations took place after the war ended in 1975 [JD: I think the Times means: in 1975, after the war ended.] and after Hanoi said all American prisoners had been returned. Some of the Americans may have been taken to the Soviet Union on regular supply flights from Vietnam, said the Soviet agents interviewed by "Australian 60 Minutes," which is modeled after the CBS News program. The Australian program was broadcast on Oct. 27, but its assertions were not publicized in the United States until the San Diego Union printed an article about the documentary last Sunday.

[JD: Why wasn't this story publicized in the U.S.? Why didn't American 60 Minutes and the rest of our so-called "free" American mass media publicize the story? Is it that Australians care about American P.O.W.'s while our American corporate/government/media propaganda machine would rather not have patriotic Americans suspecting that their servicemen are being sacrificed to conceal the U.S. Government's narcotics trade and U.S. corporate lust for Vietnam's oil resources?]

A spokesman for the Defense Department, Bob Hall, said this week that interviews with American prisoners who returned after the war had turned up no evidence of interrogation by Soviet agents. But Mr. Hall said the Pentagon was looking into the allegations.

Agents interviewed for the program said they believed that Americans who had been interrogated might have been killed after being returned to the Vietnamese. The United States, which withdrew its forces from Vietnam in 1973, lists 2,273 Americans as missing in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

In the program, a former Soviet navigator identified as Pavel Ponomaryov said he had helped fly two Americans to the Soviet Union and that he had seen three other captured servicemen on flights from Vietnam.

Yuri Pankov, a Soviet reporter who took part in making the segment of the Australian program, titled "Missing in Action," has written an article on the same subject for the Soviet financial journal Kommersant. He wrote that at least one American had been taken to the town of Sary Shagan in the republic of Kazakhstan in the years immediately after the war. The State Department said on Friday that two diplomats from the American Embassy in Moscow had been sent to Kazakhstan about two weeks ago to investigate the report but had been forbidden to go to Sary Shagan, which is in a restricted area.

[JD: Of course, the American diplomats would not want to trouble trouble by requesting that the particular Soviets who have seen the American prisoners of war be dispatched to meet with the diplomats at a place which is NOT "restricted". After all, this needless restriction provides the State Department with the exemption it needs to avoid seeking out the incriminating truth.]

Oleg D. Kalugin, a former K.G.B. general brought back by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev to reorganize the intelligence agency after the unsuccessful coup in August, was among those interviewed for the program. Mr. Kalugin said he headed an interrogation team in Vietnam from 1975 to 1978 and questioned Americans there.

The Soviet agents said their goal in the interrogations was to learn about American equipment.

* * * * *

If you care enough to help rescue our men from the brink of doom, you can contact:

James Rhodes, Chairperson
Vietnam Combat Veterans
1740 West 24th Lane
Yuma, AZ 85364 (602) 726-0374

John DiNardo

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It is our laziness -- being too lazy to love -- that is the wellspring of all evil in this world.

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Article #27355 (27408 is last):

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

N e w s g r o u p s :
alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,soc.rights.human,soc.culture.usa

Subject: Part VI, Are 2,000 American P.O.W.'s About To Be Put To Death?

Date: Fri Dec 13 09:20:15 1991

The following transcript is from the video, A NATION BETRAYED

* * * * *

NARRATOR:

There has never been a shortage of criticism from any number of armchair generals such as Robert K. Brown of "Soldier of Fortune" magazine who devoted an entire issue to condemning Gritz's efforts. Even to the extent of publishing documents stolen from Bo while he was on the mission in Laos. They have even belittled his prayer before crossing enemy lines. (Gritz is a devout Mormon...Ed.) His critics said he should have looked more like the Rambo in the movies, who actually avoided the draft in an all-girls school in Switzerland.

More debilitating than the hundreds of miles on foot within enemy territory has been the disinformation propagated by those within our government who have covered up the plight of our prisoners of war. Gritz has been accused of being a media hound. He insists he has never sought the spotlight, but when confronted has always been a positive voice for our prisoners of war and will continue to be until they are home to speak for themselves.

Working as an agent for the Intelligence Support Activity (ISA) in the CIA, it was fine for Gritz to travel at great peril using false documents, as Ollie North and Bud McFarland did when they traveled to Iran on phony Irish passports. On one occasion he was stopped by US customs at Seattle-Tacoma airport with four separate passports. He was quickly released when his intelligence contact in Washington confirmed his mission. It was quite acceptable with the US government for Bo Gritz to travel at such great peril until he returned from Burma's infamous Golden Triangle on December of 1986 with information concerning the involvement of high-level US officials involved in large-scale drug trafficking in Southeast Asia. His tremendous courage in refusing to back down to their threats has lead to his current indictment for misuse of a passport in order to keep him from getting

this information to the American public.

BO GRITZ:

There's a book out now called SECRET WARRIORS, I think. Its about an organization called the ISA. Congress never knew about it and everybody gives me credit for exposing it, but that's not true.

When I was called before Congress in 1983, they said, "Bo, are you working as an official agent of the US government?" And I said, "Yes". And they said, "For what organization?" And I said, "I will not identify that organization, other than to call it the activity."

This is because even the initials I-S-A were top secret. Because it wasn't an oversight. It was created by Carter. Can you imagine that? He did one good thing that I know of. But it was a parallel government. He created a secret organization to do things that the CIA could not do and he didn't dare let Congress know about it.

Now ISA got Dosier back, the general that was captured by terrorists in Italy. And ISA did a lot of other things. You can read about them now because its in this book by some guy who writes for the Wall Street Journal. The point is that Jerry King was the head of ISA. Jerry King called me on the telephone and said, "Bo, we have been ordered to put Operation Grand Eagle...", which was the government's name for the prisoner of war rescue mission. It certainly wasn't grand and it sure wasn't an eagle 'cause it never got off the ground. But he said, "We've been ordered to put Operation Grand Eagle on the shelf as if it never existed." Hand before God he said, "there are still too many bureaucrats who don't want to see American prisoners of war come back alive." Now I didn't know what Jerry King meant then. I thought he was angry because there was a bureaucratic tug-of-war going on between ISA, the CIA and Defense Intelligence and maybe he was losing. But remember Jerry King's words, 'cause they'll tie in here. I'm wondering why [they recaptured] the Vietnamese intercept Colonel Richard Walsh (a POW...Ed.) moments before the turnover and captured not only him, but the general also (unclear who the General is here ... Ed.) And I And I knew that we still had him, because in the newspapers it appeared that "The Vietnamese and Lao delegations of the United Nations confirm that they are holding an American citizen in custody." And I said, "By golly. We and our State Department are going to press for an identity." Because doesn't it say that the President is required to safegaurd American citizens in hostile hands. And I knew when we pressed what would happen? Richard Walsh would be identified. Who is he? A prisoner of

war. Hooray! Now the logjam is broken. And who can Walsh testify to? The other men he was with. And they can testify. We're going to get them all out now, even though its going to cost us something. Did you ever see Richard Walsh's name identified? I didn't.

(to be continued)

The preceding excerpts are from a transcript of the video,
A NATION BETRAYED, posted to Usenet by:

jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com (Jim Burnes)

Message ID: <1991May28 . 020446 . 1637@swbatl.sbc.com>

* * * * *

If you want to help to stimulate public awareness and to arouse public pressure upon the Congress, please contact one of the following POW/MIA activists:

James Rhodes, Chairperson
Vietnam Combat Veterans
1740 West 24th Lane
Yuma, AZ 85364 (602) 726-0374

Mike Balash [of the organization:
R.R. #3, Box 177A Veterans of the Vietnam War]
Dallas, PA 18612-9408 (717) 333-4233

Mary Currall
National League of Families
1001 Connecticut Ave., N.W., #219
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 223-6846

John DiNardo

Article #27396 (27408 is last):

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

N e w s g r o u p s :
alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,soc.rights.human,soc.culture.usa

Subject: Part VII, Are American P.O.W.'s About To Be Put To Death?

Date: Wed Dec 18 17:12:23 1991

The following excerpts are from a transcript of the video:

A NATION BETRAYED

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(continuation)

BO GRITZ:

Mrs. Walsh showed me a newspaper article that said where an Air Force casualty officer came to her at this time and said: "Your husband is alive. He's a prisoner of war. We have high hopes he'll be coming home soon." They put it in the newspaper there in Minneapolis. She was told that Air Force Two was spooling up ... Who's that belong to? ... George Bush ... to go get her husband. That's what she told me, but it never happened. And I thought again: "What rotten luck, and what a bunch of wimps in the State Department for not going and demanding that they identify that citizen." They probably did. They found out who he was and they said: "Let's forget it." Because when I walked into the State Department shortly thereafter, a friend of mine said: "Bo, we thought that you'd been captured. Your passport turned up in a very unlikely place." And I said: "Yeah, I know all about it."

Do you think that all of this has just been rotten luck. Well, when you wear the uniform of the United States you have this faith ... hope that the system will do it. Just like General Aaron said: "Let the system do the rest." Now comes truth ...

We were training Afghan freedom fighters in the deserts of South Nevada near where I live and I was proud to do so -- in cooperation with the U.S. State Department Office For Security Assistance. We finished that mission. A man by the name of Tom Harvey who is a National Security Council Ollie North look-alike (Ollie comes from Annapolis. Harvey comes from West Point.) ... Tom Harvey called me and said: "We have information ..." And here is a copy of the letter. That's why I brought all these documents. I hope some of you challenge them. I hope the

White House, the Pentagon would challenge them. Because if they would publicly they would have to admit to the truth. This letter was sent to Vice-President Bush by an American citizen by the name of Arthur Soucek. It is dated 29 August, 1986. It says that General Khun Sa has American prisoners of war. It says that Khun Sa tried to rescue four of them. It says his forces escorted the four to the Mekong River. While attempting to cross the rain-swollen river, the four U.S. personnel, three of Khun Sa's soldiers and two horses were swept away by the raging water and all drowned. It goes on to say that Khun Sa has repeated intelligence reports of a location of U.S. prisoners being kept in Laos ... that he says that has seventy prisoners of war. Tom Harvey said: "This is getting TOP priority."

Now in G. Gordon Liddy's book, "Will", he says, "no American has ever come out of the Golden Triangle alive." But that's what we were being asked to do. Tom Harvey said, "Bo, do you think you would be able to infiltrate into Khun Sa's inner sanctum and determine if this report is true or not?" Do you think maybe somebody is trying to get me bumped off? It didn't make any difference. Brothers and sisters, you and I are small compared to this nation. And the risk that we take, if there is one American there, is worth it. God's will, they'll be home while they're still alive. I told Harvey, "We didn't fight a war in Burma. Why should there be prisoners of war there?" But you know a guy like Khun Sa has got connections all over. And I said, "We'll try."

I speak Chinese. Khun Sa speaks Chinese. He's right along the southern China border, surrounded by communists. He's fighting the communists. He has a forty-thousand man army. About eight million Shan people make up the minority Shan state. Burma is communist. Every one of his weapons are M-16s and M-60 machine guns. All the latest stuff that we have. I found out why later. To make a long story short, we got in to see Khun Sa and he didn't have any prisoners of war. And let me caveat it by saying this. We traveled three days going and three days coming by horse over mountains that were literally vertical up and down. I made the comment at that time to Scott Weekly who was Ollie North's classmate at Annapolis and went with me. I said: "I would hate to be an engineer that had to build a highway through these mountains because they're virgin teak forests ... rain forests .. tremendously beautiful."

Six days coming and going. Khun Sa didn't have any prisoners of war.

We gave Khun Sa the letter from the White House that I had. That's the only thing that let me get in there. You don't walk in because the CIA has a seven digit figure on Khun Sa's head and they haven't been able to collect. You think they're gonna let somebody like me in there. Say, "Hi! I wanna go visit Khun Sa!" Doesn't work! But I guess they thought this guy is crazy enough because I gave this letter ... I told Harvey, "We got to have a credential, guy." He said, "We can't do that, Bo. We never do that." I said, "Harvey, has anyone ever gone to the Golden Triangle and come out alive? I need something that will convince Khun Sa we're not there to kill him. We're there for humanitarian purposes." So Harvey said, "Well, this will be the language: 'You are operating in cooperation with the White House ... etc, etc.'" It worked! Khun Sa didn't have one single prisoner of war, didn't know anything about prisoners of war.

[Switch to a scene with Bo and Khun Sa talking at Khun Sa's camp with Khun Sa's troops doing practice drills in the background. Bo is discussing the letter from Soucek with Khun Sa. It is nearly impossible to decipher what is specifically being discussed because Khun Sa's troops are incredibly loud and drown out the conversation, so I will proceed to the next scene. Don't worry...there are more Khun Sa meetings to come. The long and short of it is Khun Sa says he will decrease or stop the drug shipments and Gritz gets it on videotape.]

BO GRITZ:

Now with Nancy Reagan saying no to drugs and Judge Ginsberg not allowed to sit on the supreme court because he smoked marijuana ... and you're an accessory to murder if you've ever smoked marijuana, according to Nancy Reagan. I figured we'd get an 'attaboy'. We didn't have prisoners, but we had three videotapes showing Khun Sa himself. And I thought, "Boy, is George Bush gonna be thrilled about this!" We delivered those tapes to Tom Harvey just before Christmas. You try to call Tom Harvey now, because some news people did, and he doesn't return your calls. We delivered those tapes just before Christmas, Tom Harvey called me back and said, "Bo, fantastic! You guys actually got in to see Khun Sa. The CIA said he had been assassinated." Somebody needed some pocket change. "And there he is talking." And I said, "That's right, Tom. Harvey, what about the 900 tons?" I figured they were just bubbling over. They were all right. They were dripping in their knickers. But it wasn't from joy. Harvey said, "Bo ...". These

are quotes ... hand on the square ... he said, "Bo, there's no interest here in that." You be on the other end of the phone. You've just come out of Burma. You've brought what you consider to be a way to stop 900 tons of heroin, not marijuana, and get rid of the cancer that has infected the bureaucracy -- and there's "no interest." I challenged Harvey because I'm pretty hard-headed. I said, "Tom, didn't President Reagan appoint George Bush the number one cop to stop drugs before they come into the United States?" I wanted to remind him of these little things. And he said, "Bo, what can I tell you? There is NO INTEREST here in doing that." Now that is White-House-ese for saying, "Get off this subject. Leave us alone." I knew that we had trod upon some very sensitive toes. I still didn't have a clue to what was going on, but I knew that we were getting close to finding out and I took off and went to Burma again.

Now I want to show you some things when I got back to Burma. [He shows some newspaper headlines] The United States government wanted Khun Sa killed quick and here's how they did it:

US CALLS FOR NO MERCY IN DRUG WAR

These are "over-there" newspapers:

AIR STRIKES AGAINST KHUN SA's HEADQUARTERS BURMESE AND THAI TROOPS MOVE ON KHUN SA

Finally it says, and there is a picture of Burmese and Thai troops standing on top of a high mountain top:

KHUN SA'S STRONGHOLD SEIZED

Now many of you are soldiers, airmen, marines, sailors. You know that air strikes and troops mean war. There's hair, eyes and teeth everywhere. When I went back into Burma in May I took two other Americans with me. It was the most peaceful area. It was exactly like we left it except for one big change. Remember I told you it took us three days to ride by horse to get there in November and come out in December. Well, when we went in May, we went by pickup truck. Straight from the Thai border all the way right to the General's front door. And on the other way coming back there were Thai military ten-ton trucks covered and loaded. There's only one thing that comes out of the Golden Triangle,

and that's heroin.

When we got there, General Khun Sa said, "What took you so long?" I said, "General, I was waiting for the war to die down. I didn't want to get caught in all of this 26,000 troops and air strikes." And he just laughed. He said, "That was a newspaper war!" I said, "What do you mean newspaper war?" He said, "The Thai and Burmese came to me and said that if they don't make it look like they're doing something, they stand to lose tens of millions of dollars this year in drug suppression funds from American taxpayers." So Khun Sa said, "Make it look like anything you want to, but I want a road built here." They used the newspapers and I want to show you something. This one here says: "U.S. PROVIDES ANOTHER 1.8 MILLION TO FIGHT DRUGS" So it worked! And this guy is really smiling. This is a Thai receiving a check from the U.S. Ambassador.

Khun Sa got what he wanted. Now he began to assemble his officers. It took him a week to get them all together because he brought them from all over the place. And now I understand why. I thought I was just going to talk to him, but he said no and put me off for a week. He assembled officers from the entire Shan territory from all over the Golden Triangle. They came in. He sat everybody down. He brought his secretary out. He had his secretary read from their log.

[Scene switches to Khun Sa's headquarters. All of Khun Sa's officers are here along with Khun Sa. I'd say around twenty in all. Bo and his companions are sitting with them. This is where it gets VERY interesting. The following conversation was in broken English from Khun Sa's end so some of the syntax may be a bit weird.)

BO GRITZ:

I cannot ask the General to cut your throat by revealing any contact that would hurt your economy at this moment. But I pray that he will reveal any connections from the older time, or that will not hurt you now; that if they are still in power, we might be free of them.

KHUN SA:

Some of the connections I can expose to you. Some were in Burma. Some were in Thailand. Some were in America. But I don't remember all of their names and my secretary remembers them so he will give you the information.

SECRETARY:

In 1965 to 1975 there is one CIA in Laos. His name was Shackley. He was involved in the narcotics business. And we know that Shackley used one civilian to organize trafficking. His civilian name was Santos Trafficante. He was the organizer of trafficking for Shackley. This was financed by Richard Armitage who stayed in Vietnam. After the Vietnam War, Richard Armitage was a prominent trafficker in Bangkok. This was between 1975 to 1979. He was a very active trafficker in Bangkok. He was one of the Embassy employees. Then after that, in 1979, he quit from Embassy and then he established a company name the Far East Trading Company. Then he used the name of his company under the table for drug trafficking. He then used the drug money to support the Lao anti-communist troops.

BO GRITZ:

So he used it in arms and munitions.

SECRETARY:

Yes. This Richard Armitage has a lot of friends in Laos and Thailand. There is a lot of CIA personnel in Laos. One of the CIA agents is named Daniel Arnold. This Arnold was a munitions trafficker. There is another one, Jerry Daniels, who organized trafficking for Richard Armitage.

[Scene is cut and Bo Gritz is shown narrating.]

BO GRITZ:

One of the men named by Khun Sa. This is not me naming him. This is Khun Sa, the drug overlord reading from his records, naming Richard Armitage as being a chief drug trafficker from 1965 through 1979. You know where Richard Armitage went in 1979? He went to Dole's staff, then to Reagan's campaign staff and now he is the Assistant Secretary of Defense right underneath Mr. Carlucci. Richard Armitage has been responsible for recovery of U.S. prisoners of war way back before we actually got involved with H. Ross Perot. He is still responsible for them. What I'm trying to do is find you Khun Sa's letter because it will say it best. Here it is. Letter from Khun Sa written to the U.S. Justice Department dated 28 June, 1987. I just want to read you a couple sentences. "During the period 1965 to 1975, CIA Chief in Laos Theodore Shackley was in the drug business." Now Theodore Shackley would have been Director of Intelligence of the CIA if George Bush had not been

appointed to that post. Theodore Shackley was then posted as the Deputy Director for Covert Operations. It said, "Santos Trafficante acted as his buying and transporting agent while Richard Armitage handled the financial section with banks in Australia."

All of a sudden the words from Jerry King came back, "Too many bureaucrats don't want to see American prisoners returned alive." Why? Couldn't figure it out. Gunboat at midnight in the middle of the Mekong [River] with Voice of America saying we're there to abort our attack.

Walsh and the General recaptured before turnover. Why? Now I'll tell you why. If this is true, it means Richard Armitage and a lot of other people that are named here are the least men in the world that want to see Americans come home. Because when American prisoners of war do come home, whether we bring them home or they drag themselves across that Mekong river somehow, and report to the US Embassy and aren't destroyed there ... when they do come home, because they will, there will be one hell of an investigation as to what took the greatest nation in the world so long to bring home heroes who have been waiting for more than fifteen years. When that investigation is conducted, it will show, as Khun Sa says, that these men, these bureaucrats -- appointed, not elected ... appointed -- have broken the faith with you and this country and its law; have used their office as a cover to run drugs and arms to promote covert operations that the United States Congress did not approve of. It's the parallel government. Now that may be alright. But I'll tell you something. It's not alright to leave hundreds of Americans to die alone in the hands of the enemy by a bunch of wimps who were never there.

When I came back here, I thought I was the Lone Ranger. I said, "Boy, I've got this information. Somehow we've got to get it to the proper authorities and I'm all alone." Well, not so. Guess who shows up in

~~~~~

Time Magazine? H. Ross Perot. And he's on page 18, May 4th and it says, "Perot's Private Probes." H. Ross Perot was not in Burma with me, but I know now where he got his info. Four billion dollars opens a lot of doors for you. It didn't open a couple of doors, however, as I'll let you in on this story. H. Ross Perot had gained U.S. agent investigation reports of Richard Armitage. Perot didn't know I was over in Burma. He was doing this on his own. This article said he pinned Richard Armitage ... (Armitage is a fat broad. Literally. This is a giant of a man) ... and demanded that Armitage resign because



it says that H. Ross Perot accused him of being a drug smuggler and an arms dealer. That takes pretty big cajones. It says that Perot then went to his friend, George Bush. It says that he gave evidence of wrongdoing by Armitage. I'm quoting. "Bush told Perot to go to the proper authorities." I'm still reading now.

So the billionaire called on William Webster. He's now head of the CIA. It says that Perot made at least one visit to the White House carrying a pile of documents, yet he has received no support from the Reagan Administration. In fact Frank Carlucci ... Who's he? He's the Secretary of Defense. And who was he before? Deputy Director of Central Intelligence. ... Frank Carlucci called him in to ask him to stop pursuing Armitage. Talk about insulation! And when four billion dollars can't even get your foot in the door -- even though the man is a good Texan from Houston -- tell me there's no cover-up here.

Now H. Ross was working on his own. He didn't know what Khun Sa had told us. Khun Sa doesn't have a television or a telephone. He doesn't know who Richard Armitage is. He doesn't give a damn. All he knows is the people who are on his records that he's dealt with. This affidavit, though by a man by the name of Daniel Sheehan ... and you'll recognize Sheehan's name if you don't know him already by the Silkwood case. He jumped on Kerr-McGee. Kerr-McGee is pretty powerful. But they won the Silkwood case there in Oklahoma and have done a few other things.

[switch to a talk-show interview with Daniel Sheehan]

DANIEL SHEEHAN (lead attorney for the Christic Institute): There's little doubt at all that President Reagan was involved in a conspiracy to violate the Neutrality Act. He's been directly ordered by the United States Congress not to mount this military operation against Nicaragua. They've cut off all funds for him to do so, but he went to Saudi Arabia and various private citizens to raise the money in total violation of the Federal Neutrality Act. They're engaged in violations of the arms-export control act. They're engaged in violations of the Federal Racketeering Act. There is a whole federal racketeering syndicate that they like to refer to as The Enterprise. Richard Secord referred to it as. But what it is in fact, Jim, is the off-the-shelf, stand-alone, self-financing, covert operations capacity that Oliver North talked about Bill Casey wanting to set up. Fact is,

that it has been set up. It's been operating for many years now -- out from under the control of any President; out from under the control of the Director of Central Intelligence. Out from under the supervision of any intelligence committee. Its run by Theodore Shackley, the former Director of Covert Operations worldwide; by the CIA under George Bush when George Bush was the director of the Central Intelligence Agency in 1976. And this crowd has set up the off-the-shelf operation and is carrying out not only a partnership with the drug dealers from Central America and from Southeast Asia, but also carrying out a major political assassination program which was participated in by William Buckley who was the Beirut Section Chief for the CIA who was kidnapped in March of 1984 and who was the subject of all the real negotiations for the sale of the TOW missiles to Iran. It was not a sale to open any openings to the moderates in Iran, nor was it in fact a negotiation to negotiate for the general release of hostages. It was initiated solely and exclusively to obtain the release of William Buckley because he knew about the whereabouts of the off-the-shelf operation. It was a criminal enterprise and they feared that if the American people found out about that there would be a huge Constitutional scandal and the President of the United States would be impeached.

(to be continued)

The preceding excerpts are from a transcript of the video,

A NATION BETRAYED, posted to Usenet by:

jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com (Jim Burnes)

Message ID: <1991May28 . 020446 . 1637@swbatl.sbc.com>

\* \* \* \* \*

If you want to help to stimulate public awareness and to arouse public pressure upon the Congress, please contact one of the following POW/MIA activists:

James Rhodes, Chairperson  
Vietnam Combat Veterans  
1740 West 24th Lane  
Yuma, AZ 85364 (602) 726-0374

Mike Balash [of the organization:  
R.R. #3, Box 177A Veterans of the Vietnam War]  
Dallas, PA 18612-9408 (717) 333-4233

John DiNardo

Article 13703 (45 more) in misc.headlines:

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,soc.ri  
^Hghts.human,soc.culture.usa,soc.veterans

Subject: Part VIII, Are American P.O.W.'s About To Be Put To Death?

Keywords: the possible extermination of Americans held captive in S.E. Asia

Message-ID: <1992Jan7.142232.7501@cbnewsl.cb.att.com>

Date: 7 Jan 92 14:22:32 GMT

Followup-To: alt.conspiracy

Distribution: na

Organization: AT&T Bell Laboratories

Lines: 145

Jim Burnes was kind enough to transcribe the following article and e-mail it to me. He didn't get the date when he tore out the article, but I'll seek out the date and post it in a follow-up.

\* \* \* \* \*

From jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com Tue Dec 17 15:36:34 1991

Received: from swbatl.sbc.com (via uunet.UU.NET) by relay2.UU.NET with SMTP  
(5.61/UUNET-internet-primary) id AA29064; Tue, 17 Dec 91 15:36:34 -0500

Received: by swbatl.sbc.com (Λ=-Λ Smail3.1.16.1 #16.9)

id <m0ktlWa-0001k3C@swbatl.sbc.com>; Tue, 17 Dec 91 14:36 CST

Message-Id: <m0ktlWa-0001k3C@swbatl.sbc.com>

From: jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com (Jim Burnes - 235-7444)

Subject: Re: pow/mia director

To: uunet!att!homxcljd

Date: Tue, 17 Dec 91 14:36:24 CST

X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.3 PL11]

This is an article that appeared in a little corner of page 10A of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

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COVERUP CHARGED ON POWs, MIAs  
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Compiled From New Services

WASHINGTON -- A top officer of the Defense Intelligence Agency has resigned, leaving behind a memorandum that accuses the government of disregarding, and possibly even covering up, information on U.S. prisoners who may have been left in Southeast Asia.

Army Col. Millard A. Peck, chief of the Defense Intelligence Agency's Special Office for Prisoner of War and Missing In Action, wrote that his office was being used as a "toxic waste dump to bury the whole mess out of sight and mind in a facility with limited access to public scrutiny."

Peck's allegations are being made public as momentum is building within President George Bush's administration to normalize relations with Vietnam. But a major stumbling block is the inability to resolve the fate of the more than 2,000 Americans still listed as missing in action in Southeast Asia.

Bush has insisted that the POW/MIA issue remains "a matter of highest national priority." But Peck suggested in the memo that efforts were less than aggressive. It appears that the entire issue is being manipulated by unscrupulous people in the government or associated with the government," he wrote.

----- END OF ARTICLE -----

..This from the head of the office of POW/MIA investigations in the DIA.  
You tell me nothing is going on.

Jim

\* \* \* \* \*

Here are excerpts from an article in the Spotlight, December 2, 1991.

\* \* \* \* \*

'FINAL SOLUTION' SOUGHT FOR PROBLEM OF POW'S

By James P. Tucker Jr.

Because of a desire to exploit the oil reserves of Indochina, the United States is trying to cover up the issue of live POW's until they are all killed next January or February, the Senate was told

November 7.

This charge was made before the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs by Hamilton Gayden, a circuit court judge in Tennessee who has written a book on the subject. Gayden has long been active in efforts to bring home hundreds of the two thousand missing men who, extensive evidence shows, are still alive.

Government bureaucrats fear "the ever-present threat that the Vietnamese and Laotian leaders will disclose to the American people the existence of live Americans who still want to be repatriated," Gayden said.

#### POLITICALLY EXPLOSIVE

"The government is determined to declare all missing men dead because of the intense outrage that would result if the American public learned of their abandonment," Gayden said. "It is this silent yet politically explosive blackmail that dictates the purpose and policy of the agencies charged with POW/MIA affairs."

The goal of the American Government "is for the Vietnamese and Laotians to carry out the final act. Dead men don't talk," Gayden said.

"The 'final solution' is tentatively set for January or February of next year," Gayden said his informants told him.

"We also know there is a plan to 'end-run' this committee to begin immediate talks with Vietnam," Gayden said. "I am told by an informant that the President himself will unilaterally announce the beginning of talks."

"We are told that our government is fully aware of this plan, and one of the essentials of this plan has already taken place -- the delay of any inquiry by this committee," Gayden said.

If, according to Gayden, the Vietnamese are satisfied with the talks, they will reward the American Government by killing all the POW's, assuring forever that none will ever tell his grim story.

"We believe we are justified in adopting the approach that the United States Government is our number-one enemy," Gayden said.

The plan to keep the knowledge of live POW's from the American people while normalizing relations with Vietnam is a classified operation code-named "Roadmap", said Jeffrey Donahue, who is active in several groups seeking their freedom.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you want to help to stimulate public awareness and to arouse public pressure upon the Congress, please contact one of the following POW/MIA activists:

James Rhodes, Chairperson  
Vietnam Combat Veterans  
1740 West 24th Lane  
Yuma, AZ 85364 (602) 726-0374

Mike Balash [of the organization:  
R.R. #3, Box 177A Veterans of the Vietnam War]  
Dallas, PA 18612-9408 (717) 333-4233

John DiNardo

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

If we seriously listen to this "God within us" ["conscience", if you will], we usually find ourselves being urged to take the more difficult path, the path of more effort rather than less. .... Each and every one of us, more or less frequently, will hold back from this work. .... Like every one of our ancestors before us, we are all lazy. So original sin does exist; it is our laziness.

M. Scott Peck  
THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Article 13717 (41 more) in misc.headlines:

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,  
soc.rights.human,soc.culture.usa,soc.veterans

Subject: Part IX, Are American P.O.W.'s About To Be Put To Death?

Keywords: the possible extermination of Americans held captive in S.E. Asia

Message-ID: <1992Jan9.182245.13340@cbnewsl.cb.att.com>

Date: 9 Jan 92 18:22:45 GMT

Followup-To: alt.conspiracy

Distribution: na

Organization: AT&T Bell Laboratories

Lines: 230

I received the following transcription from Jim Burnes:

\* \* \* \* \*

From att!uucp Thu Dec 19 23:20 EST 1991

>From jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com Thu Dec 19 22:52:53 1991

Received: from swbatl.sbc.com (via uunet.UU.NET) by relay1.UU.NET with SMTP  
(5.61/UUNET-internet-primary) id AA05396; Thu, 19 Dec 91 22:52:53 -0500

Received: by swbatl.sbc.com (^=-^ Smail3.1.16.1 #16.9)

id <m0kubHy-0001kxC@swbatl.sbc.com>; Thu, 19 Dec 91 21:52 CST

Message-Id: <m0kubHy-0001kxC@swbatl.sbc.com>

From: jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com (Jim Burnes - 235-7444)

Subject: miatrail.aa

To: uunet!att!homxcljd (John DiNardo)

Date: Thu, 19 Dec 91 21:52:46 CST

X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.3 PL11]

From the Los Angeles Times Magazine .... October 27, 1991

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## ON THE TRAIL OF THE MIAs

By Edward Tivnan

For 30 years, Jerry Mooney carried around in his head some of America's deepest secrets. His wife, Barbara, followed him to posts in Thailand, Okinawa and Ft. Meade, Md., but never knew exactly what her husband did every day. Mooney had pledged never to reveal anything he worked on or saw, and no one he worked with ever expected the quiet, upright,



measured and meticulous Mooney to break that pledge. Ever.

Then in the late 80's Mooney did an extraordinary thing: He gave secret testimony before a Senate committee and appeared on national television alleging that the U.S. government had abandoned hundreds of American prisoners in Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War. He also claimed that U.S. intelligence officials knew not only that Hanoi had withheld American POWs as "bargaining chips" for future negotiations, but also that the North Vietnamese had handed over scores of American airmen to the Soviets for interrogation; 50 or so POWs, he charged, had disappeared into the hands of the Soviets.

For many families of men "missing in action" in Southeast Asia, Mooney's revelations were the next best thing to a real-life Rambo rescuing an American POW from the jungles of Laos or Vietnam. Since the end of the Vietnam War, MIA activists had been waging their own guerrilla war against the government, convinced that the United States was not telling all it knew about the fate of more than 2,000 men who remained unaccounted for. Jerry Mooney, however, was no Rambo. He had spent most of his 20-year career in the Air Force behind a desk, assigned to the National Security Agency, the nation's largest and most secretive intelligence operation. As a code breaker and analyst, he eavesdropped on radio and signals communications around the globe. During the Vietnam War, Mooney culled information about American POWs from literally tons of North Vietnamese communications that American had intercepted with its high-flying, intelligence-gathering planes and ground-based listening posts.

When Mooney went public in 1987, he was the first member of the intelligence community to break his vow of silence and talk about the top-secret POW data that had crossed his desk -- and what he had to say amounted to charges of a massive MIA cover-up.

It was startling stuff. But the U.S. government all but ignored Jerry Mooney. The Pentagon quickly and strenuously declared that "the commonly repeated myth that U.S. personnel with specialized technical knowledge were kept in Vietnam or sent to third countries is not supported by any evidence." After all, officials have pointed out, of the 591 POWs who did return from Vietnam, not one remembered ever having been interrogated by Soviet officers. But the government made no effort to discredit Mooney's outstanding NSA service record, and it did not

dispute that Mooney had been in a position to see POW-related intelligence data. And though, according to Mooney, representatives from the NSA and Justice Department warned him to "shut your mouth," he was not prosecuted for breaking the law by divulging secrets.

But where were the other Jerry Mooneys? As Mooney says, "I just got a little piece of the rock. People in higher positions saw more." Even those who wanted to believe this NSA whistle-blower wondered why no one else -- from among the hundreds of NSA, CIA and Defense Intelligence Agency workers who could have seen similar data -- had emerged to support Mooney's claims.

During the next four years, Mooney tried to get his side of the story out to official Washington. He talked to lawyers, to state legislators, to congressman. He talked to MIA families about what he believed had happened to their loved ones and swore out and filed affidavits on their behalf. At the same time, mud was slung in Mooney's direction. He was "off the wall," intelligence sources told interested members of Congress, "a flake."

In the end, Mooney had little effect. President Reagan and Bush may have called accounting for the MIAs "the nation's highest priority," but Mooneys's allegations, along with the entire MIA issue, slipped back into history as the country accepted the idea that all that could have been done to account for the nation's MIAs had been done.

Their fate, however, continued to dominate Jerry Mooney's life. During the past few years, he admits, "I've felt pretty alone."

No longer. A six-month investigation I conducted in the United States and the Soviet Union has turned up intelligence sources who confirm Mooney's story. Another former NSA analyst, retired air-defense specialist Terrell A. Minarcin, has come forward with his own stories about American POWs held after the war ended and interrogated by the Soviets. And in several interviews in Moscow last winter Soviet intelligence sources admitted for the first time that Russians had secret arrangements with Hanoi to interrogate American POWs. "in my time in intelligence," says retired KGB Maj. Gen Oleg Kalugin, a former head of Soviet foreign counterespionage, "we did participate in the interrogation of American prisoners."

Mooney, Minarcin and the Soviet sources do not claim to have evidence of Americans still alive in custody anywhere. But their stories combine to create compelling testimony that Hanoi lied about returning all the American POWs in its custody in 1973 and that the best proof of this may be in the files of a North Vietnamese ally: the Soviet Union.

These revelations come at a time when the MIA issue has leaped back into the headlines. Last spring, Army Col. Millard Peck, chief of the Pentagon's Special Office for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, angrily resigned. The government's MIA efforts were a "travesty" and a "charade," he charged. "A cover-up may be in progress." Peck, a highly decorated career intelligence officer, later told members of Congress that there was "a strong possibility: that Americans were still alive in Southeast Asia." Shortly after that, the Republican staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee released an updated draft of a 120-page report on the MIA issue confirming Peck's claims. Within weeks, the Pentagon investigated and offered a rebuttal: "There is no foundation to support" Peck's charges.

The Pentagon also continues to issue blanket denials of Mooney's allegations: "For the past few years," it recently told The Times, "Mr. Mooney has made various claims to possess information on U.S. POWs. U.S. government records have been checked, including all intelligence sources, and there is nothing to support Mr. Mooney's claims. Further, we have no intelligence to support a belief that U.S. prisoners were taken to the Soviet Union."

To try to settle the MIA issue once and for all, the Pentagon has opened an office in Hanoi -- the U.S. government's first official presence in Vietnam since the war -- to research the fate of the missing men. And the Senate, at the instigation of Sen. Robert C. Smith (R-N.H.), a Vietnam veteran and a persistent MIA activist in Congress, voted last summer to hold Watergate-style hearing on the issue. The temporary Select Committee, chaired by Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass), also a Vietnam veteran, is likely to begin hearing testimony this week. According to Smith and Kerry, the committee will explore the Russian connection: "Mooney is a critical witness," said Frances Zwenig in Kerry's office. Mooney may have company. The committee reportedly has been approached by former and current members of the intelligence community willing to talk about MIAs if the Senate promises them immunity.

Roger Shields, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense in charge of POW/MIA affairs from 1971 to 1976, has long been an MIA skeptic. He dismisses nearly all claims by activists as rumor and innuendo. "The smoking gun," he says, "has not been revealed." In his years in the Defense Department, Shields says, he never saw anything that suggested that any prisoner was ever interrogated by the Russians. Yet he calls Gen. Kalugin's statements "a very hot lead."

"If [he] is willing to talk to us and can give details that will make sense," Shields says, "if he's the guy who was involved, that's the kind of thing I'm talking about when I say 'smoking gun,' and definitely first for the Senate investigation."

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson ordered the bombing of North Vietnam, code-named "Operation Rolling Thunder." The North Vietnamese, with virtually no air force of their own and no anti-aircraft defense system, sought help from their communist ally, the Soviet Union. Moscow trained North Vietnamese pilots to fly MIGs, and the Soviet Union also sent one of its most effective surface-to-air missile systems to Hanoi -- the SAM-2. To deploy the SAMs, the government of Leonid I. Brezhnev dispatched a group of "advisers" under civilian cover to Hanoi.

The arrival of the SAMs in Vietnam alarmed American strategists, according to U.S. military historians. It was a SAM that had knocked Francis Gary Powers' U-2 spy plane out of the sky in 1960. Nikita S. Khrushchev boasted that Soviet airspace was impenetrable. "We didn't believe that the Americans could successfully interfere with our missiles," recalled Lt. Gen. Vladimir Abramov, commander of the Soviet Air Defense Forces in Vietnam from 1965 to 1968, in an interview in his Moscow apartment last winter. But when the shoot-downs in Vietnam were totaled at the end of 1965, the SAMs have achieved a pathetic kill rate of 5%.

"By mid-1966, the performance of the SAM was an embarrassment," says Robert S. Hopkins III, an aviation historian. During one week in 1966, Hopkins has learned from contemporary reports, the Soviets launched 29 missiles and scored only a single hit.

Soviet prestige -- not to mention the war effort -- depended on finding out how American planes were evading the SAMs. The obvious sources of up-to-date American intelligence were the hundreds of American airmen

who were literally falling into the hands of Moscow's loyal allies, the North Vietnamese. Sitting in Okinawa in 1968, Jerry Mooney, an old Russia hand, naturally assumed, as did his superiors, that the Soviets would not leave Vietnam without carrying back as much knowledge about enemy air power as possible, up to and including the interrogation of American prisoners. But Mooney suspected that the North Vietnamese would be secretive about handing over POWs to the Russians. He didn't expect to find evidence of it in the low-level intercepts he was "working."

(to be continued)

\* \* \* \* \*

If you want to help to stimulate public awareness and to arouse public pressure upon the Congress, please contact one of the following POW/MIA activists:

James Rhodes, Chairperson  
Vietnam Combat Veterans  
1740 West 24th Lane  
Yuma, AZ 85364 (602) 726-0374

Mike Balash [of the organization:  
R.R. #3, Box 177A Veterans of the Vietnam War]  
Dallas, PA 18612-9408 (717) 333-4233

John DiNardo

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M. Scott Peck  
THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Article 13722 (40 more) in misc.headlines:

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,  
soc.rights.human,soc.culture.usa,soc.veterans

Subject: Part X, Are American P.O.W.'s About To Be Put To Death?

Keywords: the possible extermination of Americans held captive in S.E. Asia

Message-ID: <1992Jan10.180458.25482@cbnewsl.cb.att.com>

Date: 10 Jan 92 18:04:58 GMT

Followup-To: alt.conspiracy

Distribution: na

Organization: AT&T Bell Laboratories

Lines: 162

The following transcription was sent to me by Jim Burnes:

\* \* \* \* \*

From att!uucp Thu Dec 19 23:20 EST 1991

>From jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com Thu Dec 19 22:52:53 1991

Received: from swbatl.sbc.com (via uunet.UU.NET) by relay1.UU.NET with SMTP  
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Received: by swbatl.sbc.com (X= Smail3.1.16.1 #16.9)

id <m0kubHy-0001kxC@swbatl.sbc.com>; Thu, 19 Dec 91 21:52 CST

Message-Id: <m0kubHy-0001kxC@swbatl.sbc.com>

From: jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com (Jim Burnes - 235-7444)

Subject: miatrail.aa

To: uunet!att!homxc!jd (John DiNardo)

Date: Thu, 19 Dec 91 21:52:46 CST

X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.3 PL11]

From the Los Angeles Times Magazine ... October 27, 1991

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ON THE TRAIL OF THE MIAs

By Edward Tivnan

(continuation)

Then, in 1968, in uncoded "plain text," he saw a transcription of a casual radio conversation between guards worried that a passing F-4 might have photographed a camp for Americans near Cu Loi, northeast of Hanoi. Subsequent radio transmissions among North Vietnamese troops

referred to the "my" (Vietnamese for "Americans") in trucks being escorted toward an airfield at Bai Thong by the "ban", the "friends", a term Mooney says the North Vietnamese routinely used to refer to their Soviet allies. Further intercepts confirmed that the airfield was a holding area for American POWs. Bored with tracking the movement of troops and supplies down the Ho Chi Minh trail, Mooney began searching for POW information in his data. He was amazed at how much he found. Sifting through current and past intercepts, he saw what he believed to be references to prisoners being shifted from camp to camp, to the presence of Soviet advisers in the area of the camps, to execution orders, to prisoners being assigned to slave labor.

But Mooney couldn't convince his superiors that scouting for prisoners should be part of intelligence gathering in Vietnam. The NSA was "tasked" only to track material and personnel moving up and down the Ho Chi Minh trail and to provide air-defense information to U.S. pilots. In 1970, when he returned to agency headquarters at Ft. Meade, Mooney was still keeping unofficial tabs on the POWs, still dogging his bosses. Finally, in 1971, he says, he got the go-ahead to report POW information through official channels.

Mooney became a grudging admirer of the North Vietnamese air-defense system. The North Vietnamese had quickly learned to spot the U.S. planes, track them with their own radar, target certain aircraft and "flak-trap" them. Shells from a large gun would force a plane to veer into the sights of smaller guns, increasing the probability that the plane would crash-land in pieces large enough for future examination. Sixty percent of the planes were being knocked down by anti-aircraft cannon, not by the SAMs.

The interception showed that the North Vietnamese were sorting American pilots into categories as soon as they hit the ground, Mooney says. Those downed near Hanoi went into the prisoner-of-war complex that came to be known as the Hanoi Hilton, where they were held for propaganda purposes; many captured near supply lines were used for slave labor, and any prisoner unlucky enough to have killed a North Vietnamese officer during a bombing raid might be executed (a bullet in back of the head was the preferred method).

Mooney remembers that he and his colleagues called the American stars falling from the sky "manna from Lenin" for their priceless value to

Soviet intelligence. They included alumni of the space program, flyers with technical degrees, officers specializing in electronic warfare and crew members of secret planes.

These "special talents," says Mooney, often ended up in a camp across the border in Laos, near Sam Neua, the stronghold of the Pathet Lao. According to Mooney's analysis of the intercepts, all the evidence pointed to Sam Neua's being "the main Soviet interrogation center." The "friends" were there in high numbers, according to intelligence gleaned from enemy defectors and South Vietnamese spies. NSA intercepts also alerted Mooney to "a high concentration of flight" into the area. The Vietnamese appeared to be transporting POWs by truck from the camp near Cu Loi to Bai Thong, where they were flown by IL-14s -- Russian transport planes -- to Sam Neau. [Mooney] concedes that analysts in the DIA thought that the main Soviet center was at Lang Son, northeast of Hanoi, but he never saw what he considered to be adequate confirmation of this.

Among the brightest of the United State's "special talents" in North Vietnam were the crews of the two-seater F-111s, then the Air Forces latest and hottest fighter bomber. Mooney says his orders were to pay special attention to lost F-111 pilots, and he tracked them all via their own before-crash transmissions and intercepted North Vietnamese communications. In 1968, intercepts showed that two F-111s were flak-trapped with all four men surviving. Further intercepts indicated that these men were taken to Sam Neau. The North Vietnamese, Mooney concluded, had handed them over to the Soviets.

In September, 1972, the 361st Division of the North Vietnamese artillery shot down a third F-111 crew. According to the data that Mooney saw, one American died; the other was sent along the route to Cu Loi, Bai Thong and Sam Neua. In October, another one went down and Mooney saw evidence of one survivor (however, after the war, the remains of both members of this crew were returned to the United States). Two more F-111s went down in November. In one case, both crew members survived and ended up with the "friends." In the other, Mooney's information showed no survivors. Then in December a seventh F-111 went down. According to Mooney, the intercepts show that the crew did not eject before crashing into the Gulf of Tonkin, off Vinh Linh in North Vietnam. He considered them killed in action.

The crew of only one of the F-111s lost in Vietnam returned home with

the POWs in 1973. The fighter -- the last F-111 casualty of the war -- fell on Dec. 22, 1972, one month before the peace accords were signed. These men were part of another pattern that Mooney noticed in the POW data he saw: Near the end of the war, the intercepts no longer showed "special talent" being moved to Sam Neua. It appeared that Hanoi was saving POWs for a prisoner exchange, rather than turning them over to the Soviets. Mooney says the NSA called it "Operation Warm Body Count."

In late 1972, in preparation for the negotiations he knew were inevitable, Mooney began to compile lists of all the men he had tracked as missing or captured -- about 1,000 names in all. When the North Vietnamese eventually turned over 591 POWs in 1973, President Richard Nixon announced exultantly to the nation: "All our brave men are back home again."

To Mooney, Nixon's pronouncement was pure politics. After crossing the names of the released men off his list, and others accounted for by those men, Mooney still had a roster of 289 unaccounted-for Americans he believed to have been captured alive. About 50 of those men he marked "MB" -- for Moscow Bound. While he had seen no specific intelligence showing that prisoners had been transported to the Soviet Union, what he he had tracked until they disappeared -- in his estimation, into Soviet hands.

(to be continued)

* * * * *

If you want to help to stimulate public awareness and to arouse public pressure upon the Congress, please contact one of the following POW/MIA activists:

James Rhodes, Chairperson
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1740 West 24th Lane
Yuma, AZ 85364 (602) 726-0374

Mike Balash [of the organization:
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John DiNardo

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us, we are all lazy. So original sin does exist; it is our laziness.

M. Scott Peck
THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Article 13757 (37 more) in misc.headlines:

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,
soc.rights.human,soc.culture.usa,soc.veterans

Subject: Part XI, Are American P.O.W.s About To Be Put To Death?

Keywords: the possible extermination of Americans held captive in S.E. Asia

Message-ID: <1992Jan15.175618.634@cbnewsl.cb.att.com>

Date: 15 Jan 92 17:56:18 GMT

Followup-To: alt.conspiracy

Distribution: na

Organization: AT&T Bell Laboratories

Lines: 147

The following article was sent to me by Jim Burnes.

* * * * *

From att!uucp Thu Dec 19 23:20 EST 1991

>From jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com Thu Dec 19 22:52:53 1991

Received: from swbatl.sbc.com (via uunet.UU.NET) by relay1.UU.NET with SMTP
(5.61/UUNET-internet-primary) id AA05396; Thu, 19 Dec 91 22:52:53 -0500

Received: by swbatl.sbc.com (X= Smail3.1.16.1 #16.9)

id <m0kubHy-0001kxC@swbatl.sbc.com>; Thu, 19 Dec 91 21:52 CST

Message-Id: <m0kubHy-0001kxC@swbatl.sbc.com>

From: jburnes@swbatl.sbc.com (Jim Burnes - 235-7444)

Subject: miatrail.aa

To: uunet!att!homxc!jd (John DiNardo)

Date: Thu, 19 Dec 91 21:52:46 CST

X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.3 PL11]

From the Los Angeles Times Magazine October 27, 1991

ON THE TRAIL OF THE MIAs

By Edward Tivnan

(continuation)

Four "special talents" were particularly fresh in Mooney's mind. After the cease-fire, in February, 1973, the North Vietnamese shot down an EC-47Q reconnaissance plane. U.S. intelligence officers on the ground quickly learned that some of the crew had probably survived. According

to Mooney, NSA intercepts confirmed that the number was four and that they were headed for Hanoi. Hanoi, however, returned no EC-47Q survivors. To Mooney, the crew members were logical candidates for Soviet interrogation. All of them were experts in electronic surveillance, and at least one --Peter Cressmann-- had analyzed intelligence on the Soviet Union before his stint in Vietnam. They were among the last names he listed "MB."

Mooney assumed that, behind the scenes, every effort was being made to account for or bring home the men he thought had been captured alive. He insists that according to orders at the NSA, even four years after the war, "the highest national priority, right down to the intercept desk and reporters, was to isolate, identify and recover American POWs, particularly in Laos." (More than 600 men were reported missing there; not one has ever been accounted for.)

In 1977, Mooney, then a master sergeant and the non-commissioned officer in charge of airborne intelligence-gathering operations for the 6970th Air Base Group at NSA headquarters, retired from the Air Force after having served 20 years, two months and two days. According to written reports of his superiors, Mooney's had been an exemplary career in intelligence analysis. "A perfectionist," wrote one of his bosses. "Mooney is one of the most outstanding NCOs I have ever had the pleasure of supervising," wrote another. Mooney's evaluations for his Vietnam service, for example, never fell below the highest rating.

Upon retiring, Mooney went with his wife, Barbara, to her home state of Montana, taking up residence in a town so remote that it didn't receive network TV. Mooney took a job as a grocery store manager and began looking forward to watching his daughters growing up and to "having my piece of the American dream."

Mooney's American idyll ended in 1985, the year cable TV brought national news to the wilds of Montana. Tuned in to CNN one night, Mooney saw a report about the first American excavation of a Vietnam War air-crash site in Laos. According to the government, the remains of the entire 13-man crew of an AC-130A Spectre gunship, shot down in 1972, had been found.

Mooney was stunned. He stormed around the room kicking the furniture. "I knew the government was lying," he says. Hours after the gunship had

gone down, intelligence had landed on Mooney's desk reporting that five of the plane's crew had bailed out and had been captured alive. According to Mooney, an NSA analyst in another office later received confirmation from a different source that the five Americans were indeed in enemy hands.

After a few phone calls to NSA buddies, Mooney found that while he had been enjoying his retirement, the government, beginning in 1977, had reclassified the then 2,000 MIAs in Laos and Vietnam as "presumed dead," although just a year earlier hundreds of them had been classified as alive. "I was totally shocked -- that's the only word for it," recalls Mooney. "You don't abandon your own guys who are fighting and dying for their country." He knew there was nothing he could do without breaking his NSA secrecy vows, an unthinkable step.

But his secrets started gnawing at him. He began to suffer severe chest pains. Three stints in the hospital and a heart catheterization revealed a healthy heart. Mooney confided in a friend, a Roman Catholic priest. "Father Jim looked me straight in the eye and said: 'If you don't want the cold hand of God's justice wrapped around your heart, get out and do something about it.'"

In January 1987, Mooney went public in "We Can Keep You Forever: The Story of the MIAs", a television documentary produced by Ted Landreth and me in association with BBC Documentaries. In the few minutes of television time allotted to him, Mooney told his tale of POWs left for dead and men he had listed as "Moscow Bound." Then he waited for the story to break wide open. Instead, it died amid blanket government denials.

Mooney decided that the next time around he would tell everything he knew, secrecy and prosecution be damned. He began to prepare himself by ransacking his memory for each bit of MIA data he could recall, eventually piling up 400 pages of fact, analysis and theory, complete with his own rough sketches of the position of anti-aircraft batteries and maps revealing the extent of U.S. airborne intelligence-gathering operations. According to Mooney, during the early 1970s, the United States was flying its most sophisticated intelligence planes over Southeast Asia: U-2s and specially equipped C-130s over Laos and EC-135s over the Gulf of Tonkin -- 16 hours a day, seven days a week. "For the government to say 'We have no evidence' about POWs and MIAs is absurd,"

Mooney says.

Mooney challenged the government to prosecute him not only by divulging his secrets but also by swearing out and signing affidavits on specific MIA cases and sending them to mostly unresponsive U.S. senators. At the urging of the then-Congressman Robert Smith, Mooney even wrote to the DIA requesting a closed-session meeting. The letter was returned and stamped "N.G.B." -- Not Government Business.

(to be continued)

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THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

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Article #11072 (11238 is last):

Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,
soc.rights.human,soc.culture.usa,soc.veterans

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

Subject: Part XII, Are American P.O.W.s About To Be Put To Death?

Date: Mon Jan 20 17:48:48 1992

The following article was sent to me by Jim Burnes, jburnes@uunet!swbatl

* * * * *

From the Los Angeles Times Magazine October 27, 1991

ON THE TRAIL OF THE MIAs

By Edward Tivnan

(continuation)

Mooney had been one of the NSA's prized performers, now he was a Washington Pariah. He began to wonder if anyone else privy to similar intelligence data would ever join him out on his limb.

In a jaunty cap -- the type a British sports car driver might wear -- an American-style beige raincoat, a gray suit and tie, Maj. Gen. Kalugin, one of the KGB's top officials over two decades, ushered his visitors past the security police and into the Moskva Hotel off Red Square. A member of the now-disbanded Congress of People's Deputies as well as the Supreme Soviet, Kalugin, who left the KGB in 1990, confirmed in a one-hour interview last March that the Russians had interrogated American POWs in Vietnam.

A Few days before, in a separate interview in Moscow, the former head of the Soviet Air Defense Forces in Vietnam, Col Gen. Abramov, said that he'd been disappointed at the results of the North Vietnamese interrogations of American POWs: "They didn't even know what to ask," he said. Still, the Soviets hadn't taken over the interrogation. According to Abramov, there was a strict agreement between Moscow and Hanoi: "The Soviet specialists would not have any contact with the Americans."

How did Kalugin square Abramov's denial with his own information? Kalugin smiled and then explained: "You see, the generals may not know." Kalugin said he himself worked hard to persuade then-KGB chief Yuri Andropov to work out an arrangement with the Ministry of Interior in Hanoi -- "not the military," noted Kalugin -- to allow the KGB to go to Vietnam to interrogate Americans. It was all done, Kalugin said, "at a very high level."

KGB agents were dispatched for stints in Vietnam to interrogate select Americans, Kalugin remembered. "I was not there myself," he said in idiomatic English, "but I knew people who went to Vietnam to take part in the interrogations, to collect intelligence information." One "subordinate," he said in a later telephone conversation took place "in 1976, after the war." When pressed on the year during two separate interviews, Kalugin stuck to his story: The KGB was interrogating Americans even after the war. He claimed that he personally oversaw from Moscow the interrogation of an American CIA agent in Hanoi. "we were not the chief interrogators," Kalugin hastened to add. "We were present. We sometimes asked the questions . . . [The North Vietnamese] were the sole responsible party. Our role was to collect intelligence, but at no time, to my knowledge, were we aware of [the prisoners'] future destinies, whatever happened to them afterward."

The mystery about what happened to the American POWs deepened when another Soviet source appeared. Yuri Pankov, a reporter for Moscow newspaper Kommersant, coordinated and collaborated on the Soviet end of the investigation for this story. Through a KGB official, Pankov put out the word that he wanted to speak with officers who had knowledge of KGB interrogation of American prisoners in Vietnam. His contact's identity as a KGB agent was confirmed by retired KGB Col. Yaroslav Karpovich, who worked in domestic counterespionage and who in 1989 was the first former KGB officer to denounce the agency. Pankov's contact told him to expect a telephone call.

Within days, the phone rang and the voice at the end of the line told Pankov, "I have information about the subject you're interested in." The caller told Pankov to meet him at a particular Moscow street corner and to bring a map of Vietnam. At the meeting, the source said he was a KGB officer but refused to give Pankov his name.

In 1966, the source told Pankov, he had gone to three locations on the

Ho Chi Minh trail in South Vietnam and in Laos, specifically to interrogate American POWs. He pointed to each location on the map Pankov had brought to the interview. In Laos, the source interrogated ground personnel captured near Da Nang, asking them specifically about American air tactics in the area -- radar-jamming devices and the flight patterns of the RB-47, a strategic reconnaissance plane. The interrogation lasted two days; the third morning he was told the nine Americans were dead. Surprised, the source went to see for himself -- and said he found the men with their throats slit, the work of the North Vietnamese.

The second group he interrogated consisted of "military personnel" captured in the Pleiku area and one American pilot. The Russian source remembered that the pilot still wore his jumpsuit and carried his helmet. He had no idea what happened to those men.

His final stop was the tunnels of Cu Chi, an underground Viet Cong stronghold in South Vietnam. The source claimed that many prisoners were held there, including pilots. He interrogated the pilots but did not know their destination. The source did not provide information of Americans held after the war ended.

Mooney has a mixed response to the information the Soviets had interrogated American POWs: "I'm happy that I've got some support, but it really bothers me that it had to come from the Russians." Within weeks, however, another source surfaced and went on the record -- this time another American.

In September, 1987, Terry Minarcin and some channel-gazing friends in Tacoma, Wash., hit upon a showing of the BBC documentary about the MIAs. Minarcin, a retired Air Force master sergeant, saw shots of a familiar, bespectacled face. "That guy was my boss," he announced to his friends. He didn't tell them how shocked he was. "Mooney was the last person I thought would be the first person to break silence on the MIA issue," Minarcin says.

For 18 years in Okinawa, Taiwan, Thailand and at NSA headquarters in Ft. Meade, Minarcin, a Vietnamese linguist, was an air-defense specialist. Like Mooney he decoded, reported and analyzed communications intercepted by NSA equipment.

Minarcin, now 44, confirmed that gathering POW information was not part of the NSA's job in Vietnam. But like Mooney, Minarcin began to notice patterns concerning POWs in the intercepted "systems" he was decoding in the late '60s. The data indicated that downed American flyers and captured covert operators were ending up at camps in areas where intelligence had placed Russians. Minarcin says he filed routine reports on such information, most of it from relatively low-level communications.

Starting in 1968, the data suddenly got a lot better. NSA analysts, Minarcin says, broke a Vietnamese code that allowed them to interpret high-level political communiques about internal security matters. For the next 18 months, until the enemy upgraded to a more complex radio system, NSA analysts listened in on discussions about "political re-education camps" for South Vietnamese POWs -- the nguy, or "puppets" -- and the American POWs -- tu binh my. In some intercepts, the Americans were called giac lai my, "bandit American pilots," who were being sent to prison camps south of Hanoi near Thanh Hoa, Thai Binh and Ninh Binh. The communiques also indicated which groups required "white hats" -- Vietnamese slang for members of the state security apparatus -- who, according to the pattern Minarcin saw in the intercepts, only accompanied American prisoners who were not headed for the Hanoi Hilton.

Minarcin believes that Russians were at the other end of the shipments he began discovering in 1968. He bases his conclusion, as does Mooney, in part on data showing that Soviet "advisers" were based in the locations to which the Vietnamese were sending the POWs.

(to be continued)

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~ ~ ~ ~ ~

125
Article #22947 (22957 is last):

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

N e w s g r o u p s :
alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,soc.rights.human,soc.culture.us
a,soc.veterans

Subject: Part XIII, Are American P.O.W.s About To Be Put To Death?

Date: Fri Feb 7 12:23:24 1992

The following article was sent to me by Jim Burnes, jburnes@uunet!swbatl

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From the Los Angeles Times Magazine October 27, 1991
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## ON THE TRAIL OF THE MIAs

By Edward Tivnan

(continuation)

Then in 1971 and 1972, Minarcin and his colleagues began seeing Vietnamese references to "going to market and needing qua" -- fruit. "Like a shopping list," Minarcin theorizes. They had already figured out that "qua" referred to rockets -- as in "the F-4 is loaded with qua" -- and that bananas referred to guided rockets, and that other fruits referred to other ordinance. But it took the air-defense analysts two years, according to Minarcin, to see enough fruit references in the coded traffic to surmise that imprisoned airmen in "the market" were designated by the "fruit" their planes delivered.

Minarcin stresses that, unlike Mooney, who returned to Ft. Mead in 1970 and soon received permission to focus on the POW problem, "I had other things to worry about, like Joe Blow sitting on a runway and whether a Vietnamese triple A" -- anti-aircraft artillery --- "was preparing a flak trap for him." Minarcin says that sometimes a year would go by without his processing POW reference. Nevertheless, he did see evidence "of a very high validity" that American prisoners were alive, held in special camps, and that the Soviets were invariably nearby. One case in particular sticks in his mind. It involved a fellow intelligence analyst, an EC-47Q crew member, who was shot down just 12 hours after he and Minarcin had a beer together in a bar in Thailand. The man's name was Peter Cressman. Like Jerry Mooney,

Minarcin saw the radio traffic about the EC-47Q and knew that "bandit American pilots" had been captured. Minarcin says that a month later, NSA surveillance picked up a request from a military complex near Vinh for language experts to interrogate "the SIGINT [signals intelligence] specialist" who had recently been captured. Minarcin reckoned that his friend had fallen into Soviet hands.

In 1977, four years after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, the Carter Administration began reviewing MIA cases and reclassifying men "presumed dead." But in 1978, Minarcin, then back at Ft. Mead and still working on Vietnam surveillance, continued to run across references to American POWs who, he believed, were alive. In one case, Minarcin says he overheard a radio operator complaining to the man at the other end that bad weather had destroyed their rice and he had been sent to Bai Thong to get rice; there he saw American POWs, who, he griped, were drier and better fed than he was. Mooney had identified Bai Thong as a holding area for American "special talents" in 1968.

In February or March of 1978, Minarcin says, he saw a Vietnamese military communique giving the flight itinerary of a helicopter scheduled to leave the Bai Thong air field with 12 tu binh my (American POWs) and transport them to Muong Sen. There, the Americans were to load the chopper with wood that had been cut by other American POWs. "When I told my colleagues of this communique," Minarcin says, "I was told not to report it, as all POWs were considered dead."

Minarcin, unlike Mooney, also claims to have come across specific transportation data that he feels support the ideas that American POWs did not simply disappear into the hands of the Soviets, but that they were actually taken to the Soviet Union. In late 1977 and early 1978, while analyzing daily flight schedules listed by Hanoi's civilian aviation control, Minarcin came across references to special flights scheduled from various locations in Vietnam, including, he realized, areas where earlier intelligence had indicated American prisoners were held. "Special flight A," according to his analysis, referred to high-level military passengers, "B" referred to high-level political passengers, "C" was a planeload of international diplomats. "D was the last category," explains Minarcin, who says the radio code used by Hanoi aviation control was easily cracked because the Vietnamese were using captured American coding machines. "The D flights would always originate in a POW area, fly to another POW area or Soviet

interrogation center and back, or to Hanoi and out of the country."

Minarcin paid particular attention to the D flights, checking out pilot and air-traffic communications related to them. The intercepts, he says, show that in the six-week period he monitored, at least once a week men would leave D flights at Gia Lam airport in Hanoi, and Vietnamese security agents would march them into a nearby holding area. "Within a matter of hours," Minarcin says, "a Russian airliner, usually an IL-62, would depart Gia Lam for Moscow." Minarcin says that when analysts checked back through intercepts they found earlier examples of similar flight pattern in and out of Gia Lam.

In 1982, Minarcin heard through NSA associates working on Soviet intelligence that they'd also tracked planes from Hanoi to Moscow during the '70s. The word was that passengers from those planes were then flown to areas of Siberia requiring special clearance and secured by the KGB. It is only a theory, but Minarcin believes that some of the POWs ended up in Soviet custody.

All this came back to Minarcin when he saw Mooney on TV in 1987. Retired from the Air Force in 1986 and living in Washington state, Minarcin wanted to call Mooney and say that he, too, was bothered about the missing men and what he remembered from the Vietnam intercepts. But he didn't know how to reach Mooney and ended up keeping what he knew to himself.

Then last Easter, on a trip to Florida, Minarcin ran into his past again. He saw a story in the Tampa Tribune about the efforts of the Cressman family to persuade the government to turn over information about their son Peter. Minarcin was stunned to realize that all the members of the EC-47Q crew were now considered killed in action. He called the Cressmans and told them that he believed that their son had been captured and, perhaps, had been turned over to the Soviets. The Cressmans said that they had heard a similar story from Minarcin's old boss, Jerry Mooney.

After making the phone call, Minarcin realized that he had crossed a line. Like Mooney, whom he had not seen since 1974, Minarcin was finally ready to tell all that he knew.

Although the Pentagon still insists that there is no evidence to support

a Russian connection to the MIAs, even a skeptic like former deputy assistant secretary of defense Roger Shields grants that the Soviets would have had good reasons to talk to American POWs. The Soviets would have to have been "far more incompetent and far more unaware and far more stupid and lackadaisical about things [than we think they are] not to have talked to an American flier about his aircraft, tactics, anything he knew about strategic plans and so forth," he concedes.

Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Eugene F. Tighe, Chief of Intelligence for the Pacific Command in Vietnam and later head of the DIA, agrees. "We professional intelligence officers believed that ['special talents'] would be a high priority for the Russians." To Tighe, who headed a panel in the late '80s that examined POW/MIA evidence, the fact that returning POWs denied being questioned by Soviets just didn't make sense. "It was amazing," he says. "Something was missing." In 1981, he told Congress that he was personally convinced that American POWs had been left behind in Southeast Asia. Now he says, "When I testified before [Congress], as I did every six months or so when I was head of the DIA, I said repeatedly that there were three possible explanations as to what happened to the men who did not return: (1) They were held for reparations -- the Vietnamese had a tradition of hostage-taking; (2) they were maimed and the Vietnamese were simply embarrassed to give them up; and (3) they were 'special talents' who were held to trade with the Soviets and the Chinese."

(to be continued)

\* \* \* \* \*

If you want to help to stimulate public awareness and to arouse public pressure upon the Congress, please write to this leading POW/MIA activist and Vietnam War veteran:

John Devitt  
1267 Alma Ct.  
San Jose, CA 95112

John DiNardo

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2Article #12578 (12621 is last):

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,  
soc.rights.human,soc.culture.usa,soc.veterans

Subject: Part XIV, Are American P.O.W.s About To Be Put To Death?

Date: Mon Feb 17 09:23:29 1992

The following article was sent to me by Jim Burnes, jburnes@uunet!swbatl

\* \* \* \* \*

From the Los Angeles Times Magazine .... October 27, 1991

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## ON THE TRAIL OF THE MIAs

By Edward Tivnan

(continuation)

Still, neither Tighe nor Shields saw data or analyses such as Mooney and Minarcin describe. Says Shields: "No intelligence I ever saw ... even raises as a possibility a specific American who was turned over to Russians or interrogated by Russians."

Why wouldn't the reports have made it to Shields or Tighe? Mooney and Minarcin assumed their work went through regular NSA channels to the DIA, CIA and White House. Now Mooney wonders if the internal operations and rivalries of the U.S. intelligence community might have prevented the analysis and data from getting to Shields and others at the top levels of government. "We couldn't send data forward on our own," he says. "The NSA are producers of intelligence, not users."

Mooney recalls that the first time he referred in a transcription to "the friends," he got a call from a CIA analyst asking, "Who the hell are 'the friends'?" Mooney also notes that neither the DIA nor those preparing for the Paris peace talks ever requested the raw POW intelligence that the NSA informed them they had collected. "I just assumed they had better data," he says. He also says that after the POWs came home in 1973, he called a DIA analyst to remind him about the men they both knew were captured but hadn't been returned, including the EC-47Q crew. The reply, according to Mooney: "Yeah, we know. We're working on it."

"I just can't believe that the NSA had all this material that never went into the system anywhere," Shields says. "I can't believe that my own DIA people who were coordinating the intelligence effort were keeping this from me."

Shields does remember seeing at least some of the same intelligence as Mooney and Minarcin; he also believes that Peter Cressman and other crew members of the EC-47Q were captured alive. He says that the Air Force, over his protests, declared them killed in action. Shields did not see evidence or analysis that led him to believe they ended up in Soviet hands, however. Still, he says, "If you can resolve the EC-47Q case, you will find out a lot about a lot of missing men." (According to a Pentagon spokesperson, the crew's change in status was "administrative, so that, for instance, wives could remarry and families could collect insurance. It did not reflect new information.")

Mooney and Minarcin claim that there are similar cases and much more evidence, perhaps too much. The eavesdropping equipment that the NSA used on the ground and in the air in Southeast Asia generated so much raw intelligence data -- literally tons of it -- that the DIA and CIA found it hard to digest. And "there was confusion as to who got what," explains Mooney, who served on a special NSA commission that evaluated the agency's performance in Vietnam.

And there remains no good access to MIA information. Neither Mooney, Minarcin nor Rodger Shields, for example, was aware until recently of Nguyen Cong Hoan, a Vietnamese national assemblyman who defected in 1977 and the next year testified before Congress in closed session. In the political circles he traveled in, he testified, it was "everyday conversation" that Hanoi had held onto Americans as "trump cards." Hoan also said that he heard that some American prisoners had been sent to the Soviet Union for interrogation.

Mooney and Minarcin feel certain that they are not the only American intelligence analysts who saw the data they describe. What to do about it, they say, has split the intelligence community. Mooney says he has received calls from anonymous analysts still active at NSA who say they're rooting for him. "They ID'd themselves with an NSA phone number or cipher logs," Mooney explains. "They all say almost the same words: 'This is an issue that cannot be won, and we won't stick our necks out unless there's a chance of winning it.'"

Gen Tighe says it is unlikely that U.S. intelligence sources "of regard" will ever come forward. "I suspect that you're going to be able to get a lot of access to answers . . . in the Soviet Union -- from both the KGB and military sources . . . . They feel an openness in speaking ... these days ... that will [benefit] our knowledge"

Indeed, the new openness in the Soviet Union, along with the signs of new resolve on the part of American government officials, promises a fresh start in the effort to clear up the MIA issue in Southeast Asia. The Pentagon's Office for Seeking Missing Persons set up shop in Hanoi in July; its efforts -- reviewing records, interviewing people and examining crash sites -- have as yet yielded no results. And despite the official position of the government that there is no Soviet MIA connection, the State Department has formally requested access to KGB files to check them for references to Americans help from WWII through the Vietnam War. According to Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger, the government is cautiously optimistic that the Soviets will cooperate. In a letter to Rep. John Miller (R-Wash) dated Sept. 5, Eagleburger wrote: "In light of the increasingly reformist bent of the Soviet government -- and the appointment of a new minister of the interior -- I am hopeful that the Soviet side will see the advantages of acceding to our request..."

Meanwhile, the Senate is mounting its latest investigation. "Some people in the intelligence community say that Mooney is off-the-wall", says Sen. Smith, the only member of the Senate so far to have talked to the retired NSA analyst. "But they won't let you look at the files to substantiate their claim." In announcing the formation of the Select Committee, Smith said: "The executive branch has resisted giving Congress intelligence data on POWs and MIAs. They will either provide it willingly or we are going to subpoena data and witnesses. It's that simple. We want to see the intelligence as soon as possible."

Roger Shields advises the Senate to lean on Hanoi. "We've just never pressed the Vietnamese hard enough for the MIAs," he says. "There are serious issues to be resolved, and there is that commitment a nation makes to its people" not to abandon those it sends to war.

"I went public precisely because I still believe in that commitment," Mooney says. He is eagerly awaiting his subpoena to prove to the Senate under oath that "I'm not some flake."

Indeed, Mooney, pointing to the manila folder that contains his 20-year service record of achievement and praise, prefers to see himself as a "hornet's nest" for official Washington -- "a door they don't want to walk through." With anger rising in his voice, Mooney says, "All this has cost me time and irritation and a little money. It's been pretty lonely." He pauses and then marvels at the irony of Soviet sources admitting that Americans were interrogated by Soviets, and at the appearance of new information from Minarcin. The anger disappears. Mooney laughs and then announces, "I don't feel lonely anymore."

-- END ---

\* \* \* \* \*

If you want to help to stimulate public awareness and to arouse public pressure upon the Congress, please write to this leading POW/MIA activist and Vietnam War veteran:

John Devitt  
1267 Alma Ct.  
San Jose, CA 95112

John DiNardo

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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M. Scott Peck  
THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Article #23989 (24273 is last):

From: jad@cbnewsl.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

N e w s g r o u p s :  
alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,soc.rights.human,soc.culture.us  
a,soc.veterans

Subject: Part XV, Are American P.O.W.s About To Be Put To Death?

Date: Mon Mar 16 09:46:52 1992

The following article was sent to me by a considerate friend.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES OF LONDON, September 29/30, 1990, section II, page 1

\* \* \* \* \*

~~~~ MISSING GIS: PRISONERS ON AMERICA'S CONSCIENCE ~~~~

JUSTIN WINTLE LOOKS AT DISTURBING ALLEGATIONS THAT THE CIA STROVE
TO AVOID

BRINGING THE BOYS HOME FROM VIET NAM ALIVE

THE MISSION was on the brink of success. A triangular stockade had been photographed deep in the jungle of Laos, holding white prisoners eight years after the end of the Vietnam war. Satellite pictures had been beamed to Washington, a task force of special troops was ready . . .

The message which came back did more than dash the hopes of a rescue. It said: "LIQUIDATE THE MERCHANDISE".

This allegation is the testimony of a secret service man and is part of a pile of evidence assembled by journalist Monika Jensen-Stevenson and her husband William Stevenson which they present in a book published this week. They suggest that the US Secret Service has been engaged in a vast cover-up since 1973 when it was claimed, by President Richard Nixon, that all prisoners of war were repatriated. Their book, which they say is based on the sworn testimony of senior officers, as well as depositions from more shadowy informants, suggests that the US Government persistently lied to the families of those Missing In Action (MIAs). While officials and President Nixon said publicly that none remained alive, intelligence reports were showing not only the existence, but also the precise location of many prisoners.

However, it was President Ronald Reagan who may have let the cat out of the bag after the wife of a missing colonel secretly pressed a letter into his hand at a reception, appealing for help. He wrote back: "Poor security during a secret mission to rescue POWs made other missions difficult." This snippet helped set Monika Jensen-Stevenson, then producer of CBS-TV's 60 Minutes programme, on the trail of a story which, if true, is one of the most shameful chapters in modern US history. The testimony which she and her husband collected suggests that rescue missions were indeed mounted in 1981, but that the Central Intelligence Agency (or a corrupt part of it) caused them to be aborted, to prevent more nefarious activities from becoming known.

The allegation about the aborted mission is one of the most startling. It is made by Scott Barnes a former agent who, in 1981, went deep into the jungle of Laos with an escort of 30 heavily armed guerrillas to photograph the prison camp, from the top of a knoll. He says he saw white men working under armed guard. He believed crack troops were waiting to swoop in and rescue the prisoners. But the rescue never took place.

It was on his return to base in Thailand that Barnes says he was shown the strange order about "merchandise" (a CIA word for captives). When he protested, he says he was put under armed guard, but escaped on his way to the US embassy in Bangkok. Later Barnes was stabbed by an unknown assailant, but survived. His story, which he repeated under truth drugs to a US lawyer, was denied by US officials, but partly corroborated by a statement from another secret service man who saw the message.

Barnes, say the authors, was only one of many who were harassed or prosecuted with trumped up charges after threatening to undermine the official doctrine that all those designated missing in action from the Vietnam war were dead.

This doctrine was first promulgated in 1973, when North Vietnam released 591 of its prisoners of war, and claimed no more were left alive. A further 2,500 have been listed as missing in action in Indochina (comprising Laos and Cambodia, as well as Vietnam) Persistent rumours that some of these MIAs survive in jungle prisons and mountain caves have passed into popular myth exploited by the Rambo films of daring rescue and bloody revenge. Although these were widely dismissed as fantasy, it now seems the truth may prove even stranger.

For many years it was easy to dismiss the rumours of survival as wish-fulfilment by bereaved families: all wars swallow some of their victims without trace.

Some 70,000 US servicemen remain unaccounted for from the Second World War, and 8,000 as a result of the Korean War. Set against total casualty figures, the Vietnam statistics look modest.

As recently as last December, Vietnam's Foreign Minister, Nguyen Co Thach, told me in Hanoi that there were no American prisoners in his country. I believed him, partly because I could not see why Vietnam should want to hold prisoners for so long.

I was later told the same story by a member of the Defense Department's Joint Casualty Resolution Centre at the US embassy in Bangkok. He said that after eight years' search his unit had found no definitive proof of POWs in Vietnam.

If the thesis of the Stevenson's book is right I may have been sold a pass.

The Stevensons' contention that official agencies knew all about the "secret" prisoners is supported by the sworn evidence of Lt Gen Eugene Tighe, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) during and after the Vietnam War and by many other recorded statements.

But if the authorities knew about the prisoners, why did they make such strenuous efforts to conceal the facts and to silence, disgrace or ridicule those who threatened to spill the beans?

For Scott Barnes was only one of many who after speaking out, later suffered at the hands of authority. Major Mark Smith a highly decorated Vietnam veteran and Sergeant Melvin McIntyre testified that in 1984 they had negotiated the handover of three American prisoners from Laos to a US embassy official from Bangkok. But the official never showed up. Smith and McIntyre said they were told to shut down their operation and shred all evidence of American prisoners. When they protested, they were put on serious charges, which the Army's own investigator later found to be baseless.

Smith and McIntyre's protests were supported by their immediate

superior Lt Col Robert Howard, who argued that the search for prisoners should continue. All three were then ordered to fly on a "routine" training mission in Thailand. According to a statement which Howard later made under oath to his lawyer, McIntyre became suspicious before take-off that the aircraft was different from the usual kind used in training missions and that they were more heavily armed than was warranted. They then asked the pilot for the (confidential) flight plan and discovered that he had orders to drop them, not in a training area, but across the border into a communist stronghold. Howard, who was convinced it was a deliberate plan to dispose of them, aborted the flight. After he unexpectedly returned from the mission, Howard also faced a false charge, which was later dropped.

The authors ask: what national security consideration could justify such expedients and the abandoning of American servicemen to the cruelty of their Vietnamese jailers? The answer, if it is to be believed, is loathsome in the extreme. It involves many different security agencies, some of them military, some of them CIA, right up to the National Security Council. The gist of it is that the US, which was already running a secret war in Laos, continued clandestine operations against Vietnam well after 1973. Indeed there is an unbroken line of covert U.S. involvement in Indochina up until the present, when Washington has been seen to support the genocidal Khmer Rouge against the Vietnam-backed government of Hun Sen in Phnom Penh.

In recent months the Khmer Rouge connection has been well aired in the international press. The Stevensons claim that, in addition, elements of the CIA have been involved in the drug trade of the Golden Triangle. Laos contains the richest poppy fields in the world, and these, say the Stevensons, CIA operatives nursed from the late 1960s. When Congress wouldn't finance its dirty wars, the CIA simply looked for alternative funding.

Inevitably, as these operations continued, more Americans fell into "enemy" hands. Anymove to get these new prisoners out of captivity incurred the risk of their telling the media what they had been engaged in after the Vietnam war ended. What had been secret, for the purpose of defeating communism, had to remain secret for the sake of protecting illegalities. So the lies and the cover-up by the shadowy bureaucracy of the secret services and their diehard anti-communists began, they say.

(to be continued)

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If you want to help to arouse public awareness and stimulate public pressure upon the Congress, please contact one of these dedicated POW/MIA activists:

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1267 Alma Ct.
San Jose, CA 95112

James Rhodes
Vietnam Combat Veterans
1740 West 24th Lane
Yuma, AZ 85364 (602) 726-0374

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If we seriously listen to this "God within us", [conscience, if you will] we usually find ourselves being urged to take the more difficult path, the path of more effort rather than less. Each and every one of us, more or less frequently, will hold back from this work, will seek to avoid this painful step. Like every one of our ancestors before us, we are all lazy. So original sin does exist; it is our laziness.

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Article #24041 (24273 is last):

From: jad@cbnews1.cb.att.com (John DiNardo)

N e w s g r o u p s :
alt.conspiracy,alt.activism,talk.politics.misc,misc.headlines,soc.rights.human,soc.culture.us
a,soc.veterans

Subject: Part XVI, Are American P.O.W.s About To Be Put To Death?

Date: Tue Mar 17 12:21:51 1992

The following article was sent to me by a considerate friend.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES OF LONDON, September 29/30, 1990, section II, page 1

* * * * *

~~~~ MISSING GIS: PRISONERS ON AMERICA'S CONSCIENCE ~~~~

JUSTIN WINTLE LOOKS AT DISTURBING ALLEGATIONS THAT THE CIA STROVE  
TO AVOID

BRINGING THE BOYS HOME FROM VIET NAM ALIVE

(continuation)

But why would the Vietnamese want to keep prisoners?

The main motive, it seems, was to use them as bargaining chips as the communists had done before.

In 1954 the Viet Minh held back some 200 French prisoners so that they could be "sold" later. Similarly, in 1973 it appears, prisoners were kept as hostages to force Washington to honour a pledge made secretly and illegally by Nixon, but well canvassed by recent historians, to pay Vietnam up to four billion dollars in war reparations.

In a book full of startling admissions, perhaps the most unexpected comes from Truong Chinh, the iron fist of the Vietnamese Revolution, and possibly the only man who ever had a hold over Ho Chi Minh. William Stevenson reports him as saying in an interview just before his death in 1988: "It is possible we shall embarrass the American Government some day by sending some (prisoners of war) back."

"Kiss the Boys Goodbye" also chronicles at least two attempts by the

Vietnamese Government to trade its alleged POWs. Monika Jensen-Stevenson relates how a "Canadian Government source" informed her that in 1981 there had been an offer by Hanoi to sell 57 prisoners to the US government, with Ottawa's Ambassador in China as go-between.

Then, in 1988, Eugene McDaniel, a former Army captain, now Director of the American Defense Institute, received an offer from "the commander of a communist garrison in southern Vietnam" to sell 150 prisoners at \$2 million a head. Tentative negotiations for this deal were held in Paris, but failed to produce anything except scraps of letters purporting to come from prisoners.

The great mass of the Stevensons' evidence however is gathered in America itself. Their starting point is Bobby Garwood, a POW who was not released in 1973, and like all the other MIAs, was said to be dead. In 1979 however, having learned fluent Vietnamese which helped him to gain the trust of his minders, he managed to pass a note to a Finnish diplomat, who gave it to the BBC. This note intimated the existence of other US prisoners of war which Garwood was later to describe in detail from his experience at many camps. Washington's response was to have him arrested, tried and imprisoned as a traitor and a collaborator (though the war had long since been over).

Garwood said he had learnt Vietnamese from a fellow prisoner, a Special Forces captain called Ike, who was beaten to death for trying to escape. Garwood tried to get a note to the West via a Vietnamese girl, but she was caught and shot in front of him.

However, the authorities did not appear to have any interest in Garwood's knowledge of the prison system and the men still held captive there. He was given only a perfunctory debriefing. But nine years later, he was interviewed at length in the presence of General Tighe and subjected to lie detector tests. He stuck to his story. The polygraph indicated he was telling the truth, and Tighe believed him. Indeed Tighe had already told Monika Jensen-Stevenson that he was "convinced Garwood was right" some two years before the debriefing.

Jensen-Stevenson also quotes a former deputy director of the DIA, Admiral Jerry Tuttle, as saying "he'd seen highly classified photographs of American prisoners, which seemed to back up what Garwood had said."

Garwood, Tighe and Tuttle are only tiles in a vastly complex mosaic. Other key informants include several high-ranking officers from all three services, a Texan billionaire (H. Ross Perot), acting as a presidential investigator for Ronald Reagan, and a host of "clandestine warfare experts".

These latter, a motley crew of military adventurers, intermittently recruited by the CIA for its covert operations in Laos and Cambodia, provide a steady undercurrent of adventure -- the two rescue attempts, said to have been sabotaged by the CIA and the activities of two banks allegedly set up by the CIA to "launder" drug money.

It is the testimony of these men, individually difficult to believe, but collectively plausible, that draws out the seedy international ramifications. The most Rambo-like of them all, Colonel James 'Bo' Gritz, even testifies that the ruler of the Golden Triangle's Shan State, Khun Sa, would far rather grow cereals than poppies, but is prevented from so doing by his CIA controllers.

On one occasion, Bush, then Vice President as well as former head of the CIA, is said to have spent two hours on the phone in an effort to convince Congressman Billy Hendon that in 1981 Hanoi was trying to auction the remains of 57 American soldiers, not 57 live prisoners. On another, Bush calls off Perot, the presidential investigator. "I have been instructed to cease and desist," Perot subsequently tells the families of missing men. Along the way a member of the National Security Council, Richard Childress, warns Jensen-Stevenson sotto voce that, by continuing her researches, "You could jeopardise the lives of prisoners still there." Was this a genuine admission, a dubious invocation of security, or an attempt to cajole her in a language she might understand?

It is a saga which might sound incredible, if it did not follow the hard evidence of Irangate.

It cannot all be true, but it cannot all be false. It presents a powerful case that many prisoners were held back, often in appalling conditions; that the US authorities had detailed intelligence from spy satellites and ground information of their locations; and that this was denied. Allegations of deliberate betrayal and the sinister motives for it are based on less certain evidence, but there is plenty in them to be highly disturbing.

In a final note, the Stevensons say that all their many necessarily "blind attributions" (sources preferring to remain anonymous) are backed by "sworn statements and other documents". The only certainty is that sooner or later the lawyers will have a field-day that could last into the next century.

"Kiss the Boys Goodbye", by Monika Jensen-Stevenson and William Stevenson (Bloomsbury, Pounds 16.99). Justin Wintle's account of his recent experiences in Vietnam, "Romancing Vietnam", Viking Books next February.

Photo of Rambo with caption: Rambo's mission to rescue prisoners of war left behind in Viet Nam was dismissed as a cartoon fantasy -- but is the truth even stranger?

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(END OF ARTICLE)

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1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl a) is the primary photosynthetic pigment in most plants and algae. It is a green pigment that absorbs light energy in the blue and red regions of the visible spectrum. Chl a is essential for the light-dependent reactions of photosynthesis, where it converts light energy into chemical energy in the form of ATP and NADPH.

2. *Chlorophyll b* (Chl b) is an accessory pigment found in green plants and algae. It is a yellow-green pigment that absorbs light energy in the blue and red regions of the visible spectrum. Chl b transfers the absorbed energy to Chl a, which then uses it for photosynthesis. Chl b also plays a role in protecting Chl a from photodamage.

3. *Carotenoids* are a group of pigments found in plants and algae. They include carotenes (orange pigments) and xanthophylls (yellow pigments). Carotenoids absorb light energy in the blue and green regions of the visible spectrum and transfer the energy to Chl a. They also play a role in protecting Chl a from photodamage and in the transport of lipids in the cell membrane.

4. *Anthocyanins* are water-soluble pigments found in many plants, particularly in the leaves and fruits. They are responsible for the red, purple, and blue colors seen in many plants. Anthocyanins are thought to play a role in protecting plants from UV radiation and in attracting pollinators.

5. *Flavonoids* are a large group of pigments found in plants. They include flavones, flavonols, and flavanols. Flavonoids are responsible for the yellow, orange, and red colors seen in many plants. They are thought to play a role in protecting plants from UV radiation and in attracting pollinators.

6. *Phycobilins* are pigments found in cyanobacteria and red algae. They include phycocyanin (blue pigment) and allophycocyanin (red pigment). Phycobilins absorb light energy in the blue and red regions of the visible spectrum and transfer the energy to Chl a. They are essential for the light-dependent reactions of photosynthesis in these organisms.

7. *Chlorophyll d* (Chl d) is a pigment found in some cyanobacteria and red algae. It is a blue-green pigment that absorbs light energy in the blue and red regions of the visible spectrum. Chl d transfers the absorbed energy to Chl a, which then uses it for photosynthesis. Chl d is thought to play a role in protecting Chl a from photodamage.

8. *Chlorophyll e* (Chl e) is a pigment found in some green algae. It is a yellow-green pigment that absorbs light energy in the blue and red regions of the visible spectrum. Chl e transfers the absorbed energy to Chl a, which then uses it for photosynthesis. Chl e is thought to play a role in protecting Chl a from photodamage.

9. *Chlorophyll f* (Chl f) is a pigment found in some cyanobacteria and red algae. It is a red pigment that absorbs light energy in the blue and red regions of the visible spectrum. Chl f transfers the absorbed energy to Chl a, which then uses it for photosynthesis. Chl f is thought to play a role in protecting Chl a from photodamage.

10. *Chlorophyll g* (Chl g) is a pigment found in some green algae. It is a yellow-green pigment that absorbs light energy in the blue and red regions of the visible spectrum. Chl g transfers the absorbed energy to Chl a, which then uses it for photosynthesis. Chl g is thought to play a role in protecting Chl a from photodamage.

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Date: Thu, 14 Nov 1991 12:08:30 CST
Reply-To: Activists Mailing List <ACTIV-L@UMCVMB.BITNET>
Sender: Activists Mailing List <ACTIV-L@UMCVMB.BITNET>
From: dave 'who can do? ratmandu!' ratcliffe
<dave@ratmandu.corp.sgi.com>
Subject: the INSLAW case: op-ed in NYT by Elliot Richardson

Subject: the INSLAW case: op-ed in NYT by Elliot Richardson
Keywords: "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States"

i called up bill hamilton yesterday in d.c. and asked him what he most wanted to see sent out to the nets. he immediately cited this article by Elliot Richardson as being the best thing he's seen yet.

-- ratitor

the following appeared in
the 10/21/91 OP-ED section of the "New York Times," p. A15:

A High-Tech Watergate

By Elliot L. Richardson
Elliot L. Richardson, a Washington lawyer, was
Attorney General in the Nixon Administration.

Washington

As a former Federal prosecutor, Massachusetts attorney general and U.S. Attorney General, I don't have to be told that the appointment of a special prosecutor is justified only in exceptional circumstances. Why, then, do I believe it should be done in the case of Inslaw Inc., a small Washington-based software company? Let me explain.

Inslaw's principal asset is a highly efficient computer program that keeps track of large numbers of legal cases. In 1982, the company contracted with the Justice Department to install this system, called Promis, in U.S. Attorneys' offices. A year later, however, the department began to raise sham disputes about Inslaw's costs and performance and then started to withhold

payments. The company was forced into bankruptcy after it had installed the system in 19 U.S. Attorneys' offices. Meanwhile, the Justice Department copied the software and put it in other offices.

As one of Inslaw's lawyers, I advised its owners, William and Nancy Hamilton, to sue the department in Federal bankruptcy court. In September 1987, the judge, George Bason, found that the Justice Department used "trickery, fraud and deceit" to take Inslaw's property. He awarded Inslaw more than \$7 million in damages for the stolen copies of Promis. Soon thereafter, a panel headed by a former department official recommended that Judge Bason not be reappointed. He was replaced by a Justice Department lawyer involved in the Inslaw case.

An intermediate court later affirmed Judge Bason's opinion. Though the U.S. Court of Appeals set that ruling aside in May of this year on the ground that bankruptcy courts have no power to try a case like Inslaw's, it did not disturb the conclusion that "the Government acted willfully and fraudulently to obtain property that it was not entitled to under the contract." Inslaw, which reorganized under Chapter 11, has asked the Supreme Court to review the Court of Appeals decision.

After the first court's judgment, a number of present and former Justice Department employees gave the Hamiltons new information. Until then, the Hamiltons thought their problems were the result of a vendetta by a department official, C. Madison Brewer, whom Mr. Hamilton had dismissed from Inslaw several years before. How else to explain why a simple contract dispute turned into a vicious campaign to ruin a small company and take its prize possession?

The new claims alleged that Earl Brian, California health secretary under Gov. Ronald Reagan and a friend of Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d, was linked to a scheme to take Inslaw's stolen software and use it to gain the inside track on a \$250 million contract to automate Justice Department litigation divisions.

(In Mr. Meese's confirmation fight, it was revealed that Ursula Meese, his wife, had borrowed money to buy stock in Biotech Capital Corporation, of which Dr. Brian was the controlling shareholder. Biotech controlled Hadron Inc., a computer company that aggressively tried to buy Inslaw.)

Evidence to support the more serious accusations came from 30

people, including Justice Department sources. I long ago gave the names of most of the 30 to Mr. Meese's successor as Attorney General, Dick Thornburgh. But the department contacted only one of them, a New York judge.

Meanwhile, the department has resisted Congressional investigations. The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations staff reported that its inquiry into Inslaw's charges had been "hampered by the department's lack of cooperation" and that it had found employees "who desired to speak to the subcommittee, but who chose not to out of fear for their jobs."

The department also hindered the interrogation of employees and resisted requests for documents by the House Judiciary Committee and its chairman, Representative Jack Brooks. Under subpoena, Mr. Thornburgh produced many files but the department said that a volume containing key documents was missing.

In letters to Mr. Thornburgh in 1988 and 1989, I argued for the appointment of an independent counsel. When it became obvious that Mr. Thornburgh did not intend to reply or act, Inslaw went to court to order him to act. A year ago, the U.S. District Court ruled, incorrectly I think, that a prosecutor's decision not to investigate, no matter how indefensible, cannot be corrected by any court.

In May 1988, Ronald LeGrand, chief investigator for the Senate Judiciary Committee, told the Hamiltons, and confirmed to their lawyers, that he had a trusted Justice Department source who, as Mr. LeGrand quoted him, said that the Inslaw case was "a lot dirtier for the Department of Justice than Watergate had been, both in its breadth and its depth." Mr. LeGrand now says he and his friend were only discussing rumors.

Then, in 1990, the Hamiltons received a phone call from Michael Riconosciuto, an out-of-fiction character believed by many knowledgeable sources to have C.I.A. connections. Mr. Riconosciuto claimed that the Justice Department stole the Promis software as part of a payoff to Dr. Brian for helping to get some Iranian leaders to collude in the so-called October surprise, the alleged plot by the Reagan campaign in 1980 to conspire with Iranian agents to hold up release of the American Embassy hostages until after the election. Mr. Riconosciuto is now in jail in Tacoma, Wash., awaiting trial on drug charges, which he claims are trumped up.

Since that first Riconosciuto phone call, he and other informants from the world of covert operations have talked to the Hamiltons, the Judiciary Committee staff, several reporters and Inslaw's lawyers, including me. These informants, in addition to confirming and supplementing Mr. Riconosciuto's statements, claim that scores of foreign governments now have Promis. Dr. Brian, these informants say, was given the chance to sell the software as a reward for his services in the October surprise. Dr. Brian denies all of this.

The reported sales allegedly had two aims. One was to generate revenue for covert operations not authorized by Congress. The second was to supply foreign intelligence agencies with a software system that would make it easier for U.S. eavesdroppers to read intercepted signals.

These informants are not what a lawyer might consider ideal witnesses, but the picture that emerges from the individual statements is remarkably detailed and consistent, all the more so because these people are not close associates of one another. It seems unlikely that so complex a story could have been made up, memorized all at once and closely coordinated.

It is plausible, moreover, that preventing revelations about the theft and secret sale of Inslaw's property to foreign intelligence agencies was the reason for Mr. Thornburgh's otherwise inexplicable reluctance to order a thorough investigation.

Although prepared not to believe a lot they told him, Danny Casolaro, a freelance journalist, got many leads from the same informants. The circumstances of his death in August in a Martinsburg, W.Va., hotel room increase the importance of finding out how much of what they have said to him and others is true. Mr. Casolaro told friends that he had evidence linking Inslaw, the Iran-contra affair and the October surprise, and was going to West Virginia to meet a source to receive the final piece of proof.

He was found dead with his wrists and arms slashed 12 times. The Martinsburg police ruled it a suicide, and allowed his body to be embalmed before his family was notified of his death. His briefcase was missing. I believe he was murdered, but even if that is no more than a possibility, it is a possibility with such sinister implications as to demand a serious effort to discover the truth.

This is not the first occasion I have had to think about the need for an independent investigator. I had been a member of the

Nixon Administration from the beginning when I was nominated as Attorney General in 1973. Public confidence in the integrity of the Watergate investigation could best be insured, I thought, by entrusting it to someone who had no such prior connection to the White House. In the Inslaw case the charges against the Justice Department make the same course even more imperative.

When the Watergate special prosecutor began his inquiry, indications of the President's involvement were not as strong as those that now point to a widespread conspiracy implicating lesser Government officials in the theft of Inslaw's technology.

The newly designated Attorney General, William P. Barr, has assured me that he will address my concerns regarding the Inslaw case. That is a welcome departure. But the question of whether the department should appoint a special prosecutor is not one it alone should decide. Views from others in the executive branch, as well as from Congress and the public, should also be heard.

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daveus rattus

yer friendly neighborhood ratman

KOYAANISQATSI

ko.yan.nis.qatsi (from the Hopi Language) n. 1. crazy life. 2. life in turmoil. 3. life out of balance. 4. life disintegrating.
5. a state of life that calls for another way of living.

Article #13786 (13917 is last):

Newsgroups: alt.activism,alt.activism.d,alt.censorship,alt.conspiracy,
alt.tv.prisoner,misc.activism.progressive,soc.culture.usa,soc.rights.human,
soc.veterans,talk.politics.misc

From: seraphim@irie.ais.org (seraphim)

Subject: The Prisoners

Date: Sun Mar 22 17:46:06 1992

THE PECK LETTER

DATE: 12 FEB 1991

ATTN: POW-MIA

SUBJECT: Request for Relief

TO: DR

1. PURPOSE: I, hearby, request to resign my position as Chief of the Special Office for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (POW-MIA).

2. BACKGROUND:

a. Motivation. My initial acceptance of this posting was based upon two primary motives: first, I had heard that the job was highly contentious and extremely frustrating, that no one would volunteer for it because of its complex political nature. This, of course, made it appear challenging. Secondly, since the end of the Vietnam War, I had heard the persistant rumors of American Servicemen having been abandoned in Indochina, and that the Government was conducting a "cover-up" so as not to be embarrassed. I was curious about this and thought that serving as the Chief of POW-MIA would be an opportunity to satisfy my own interest and help clear the Government's name.

b. The Office's Reputation. It was interesting that my previous exposure to the POW-MIA Office, while assigned to DIA, both as Duty Director for Intelligence (DDI) and as the Chief of the Asia Division for Current Intelligence (JSI-3), was negative. DIA personnel who worked for me, when dealing with or mentioning the Office, always spoke about it in depreciating tones, alluding to the fact that any report which found its way there would quickly dissappear into a "black hole."

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c. General Attitudes. Additionally, surveys of active duty military personnel indicated that a high percentage (83%) believed that there were still live American prisoners in Vietnam. This idea was further promulgated in a number of legitimate veteran's periodicals and professional journals, as well as the media in general, which held that where there was so much smoke, there must be fire.

d. Cover-up. The dark side of the issue was particularly unsettling because of the persistent rumors and innuendos of a Government conspiracy, alleging that U. S. military personnel had been left behind to the victorious communist governments in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and that for "political reasons" or running the risk of a second Vietnam War, their existence was officially denied. Worse yet was the implication that DIA's Special Office for POWs and MIAs was an integral part of this effort to cover the entire affair up so as not to embarrass the Government nor the Defense Establishment.

e. The Crusade. As a Vietnam veteran with a certain amount of experience in Indochina, I was interested in the entire POW-MIA question, and willingly volunteered for the job, viewing it as a sort of holy crusade.

f. The Harsh Reality. Heading up the Office has not been pleasant. My plan was to be totally honest and forthcoming on the entire issue and aggressively pursue innovative actions and concepts to clear up the live sighting business, thereby refurbishing my own image and honor of DIA. I became painfully aware, however, that I was not really in charge of my own office, but was merely a figurehead or whipping boy for a larger and totally Machiavellian group of players outside of DIA. What I witnessed during my tenure as the cardboard cut-out "Chief" of POW-MIA could be euphemistically labelled as disillusioning.

3. CURRENT IMPRESSIONS BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE

a. Highest National Priority. That National leaders continue to address the prisoner of war and missing in action issue as the "highest national priority" is a travesty. From my vantage point, I observed that the principle government players were interested primarily in conducting a "damage limitation exercise", and appeared to knowingly and deliberately generate an endless succession of manufactured crises and "busy work". Progress consisted in frenetic activity, with little substance and no real

results.

b. The Mindset to Debunk. The mindset to "debunk" is alive and well. It is held at all levels, and continues to pervade the POW-MIA Office, which is not necessarily the fault of DIA. Practically all analysis is directed to finding fault with the source. Rarely has there been any effective, active follow through on any of the sightings, nor is there a responsive "action arm" to routinely and aggressively pursue leads. The latter was a moot point, anyway, since the Office was continuously buried in an avalanche of "ad hoc" taskings from every quarter, all of which required an immediate response. It was impossible to plan ahead or prioritize courses of action. Any real effort to pursue live sighting reports or exercise initiative was diminished by the plethora of "busy work" projects directed by higher authority outside of DIA. A number of these grandiose endeavours bordered on the ridiculous, and -- quite significantly -- there was never an audit trail. None of these taskings was ever requested formally. There was, and still is, a refusal by any of the players to follow normal intelligence channels in dealing with the POW-MIA Office.

c. Duty, Honor and Integrity. It appears that the entire issue is being manipulated by unscrupulous people in the Government, or associated with the Government. Some are using the issue for personal or political advantage and others use it as a forum to perform and feel important, or worse. The sad fact is, however, that this issue is being controlled and a cover-up may be in progress. The entire charade does not appear to be an honest effort, and may never have been.

d. POW-MIA Officers Abandoned. When I assumed the Office for the first time, I was somewhat amazed and greatly disturbed by the fact that I was the only military officer in an organization of more than 40 people. Since combatants of all services were lost in Vietnam, I would have thought there would be at least token Service representation for a matter of the "highest national priority." Since the normal mix of officers from all Services is not found in my organization it would appear that the issue, at least at the working level, has, in fact, been abandoned. Also, the horror stories of the succession of military officers at the C-5 and C-6 level who have in some manner "rocked the boat" and quickly come to grief at the hands of the Government policy makers who direct the issue, lead one to the conclusion that we are all quite expendable, so by extrapolation one simply concludes that these same bureaucrats would "sacrifice" anyone

who was troublesome or contentious as including prisoners of war and missing in action. Not a comforting thought. Any military officer expected to survive in this environment would have to be myopic, an accomplished syncophant, or totally insouciant.

e. The DIA Involvement. DIA's role in the affair is truly unfortunate. The overall Agency has generally practiced a "damage limitation drill" on the issue, as well. The POW-MIA Office has been cloistered for all practical purposes and left to its own fortunes. The POW Office is the lowest level in the Government "efforts" to resolve the issue, and oddly for an intelligence organization, has become the "lightning rod" for the entire establishment to the matter. The policy people manipulating the affair have maintained their distance and remained hidden in the shadows, while using the Office as a "toxic waste dump" to bury the whole "mess" out of sight and mind to a facility with limited access to public scrutiny. Whatever happens in the issue, DIA takes the blame, while the real players remain invisible. The fact that the POW-MIA Office is always the center of the investigation is no surprise. Many people suspect that something is rotten about the whole thing, but they cannot find an audit trail to ascribe blame, so they attack the DIA/POW-MIA "dump", simply because it has been placed in the line of fire as a cheap, expendable decoy.

f. "Suppressio Veri, Suggestio Falsi". Many of the puppet masters play a confusing, murky role. For instance, the Director of the National League of Families occupies an interesting and questionable role in the whole process. Although assiduously "churning" the account to give a tawdry illusion of progress, she is adamantly opposed to any initiative to actually get to the heart of the problem, and, more importantly, interferes in or actively sabotages POW-MIA analyses or investigations. She insists on rewriting or editing all significant documents produced by the Office, then touted as a DIA position. She apparently has access to top secret, codeword message traffic, for which she is supposedly not cleared, and she receives it well ahead of DIA intelligence analysts. Her influence in "jerk-ing around" everyone and everything involved in the issue goes far beyond the "war and MIA protestor gone straight" scenario. She was brought in from the "outside", into the center of the imbroglio, and then, cloaked in the mantle of sanctimony, routinely impedes real progress and insidiously "muddles up" the issue. One wonders who she really is and where she came from.

4. CONCLUSIONS:

a. The Stalled Crusade. Unfortunately, what began on such a high note never succeeded in embarking. In some respects, however, I have managed to satisfy some of my curiosity.

b. Everyone is Expendable. I have seen firsthand how ready and willing the policy people are to sacrifice or "abandon" anyone who might be perceived as a political liability. It is quick and facile, and can easily be covered.

c. High Level Knavery. I feel strongly that this issue is being manipulated and controlled at a higher level, not with the goal of resolving it, but more to obfuscate the question of live prisoners, and give the illusion of progress through hyperactivity.

d. "Smoke and Mirrors". From what I have witnessed, it appears that any soldier left in Vietnam, even inadvertently, was, in fact, abandoned years ago, and that the farce that is being played is no more than political legerdemain done with "smoke and mirrors", to stall the issue until it dies a natural death.

e. National League of Families. I am convinced that the Director of this organization is much more than meets the eye. As the principle actor in a grand show, she is in the perfect position to clamor for "progress" while really intentionally impeding the effort. And there are numerous examples of this. Otherwise it is inconceivable that so many bureaucrats in the "system" would instantaneously do her bidding and humor her every whim.

f. DIA's Dilemma. Although greatly saddened by the role ascribed to the Defense Intelligence Agency, I feel, at least, that I am dealing with honest men and women who are generally powerless to make the system work. My appeals and attempt to amend this role perhaps never had a chance. We were all subject to control. I particularly salute the people of the POW-MIA Office for their long suffering, which I was regrettably unable to change. I feel that the Agency and the Office are being used as the "fall guys" or "patsies" to cover the tracks of others.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. One Final Vietnam Casualty. So ends the war and my last grand crusade, like it actually did end, I guess. However, as they say in the Legion, "je ne regrette rien..." For all of the above, I respectfully request to be relieved of my duties as Chief of the Special Office for Prisoners of

War and Missing in Action.

b. A Farewell to Arms. So as to avoid the annoyance of being shipped off to some remote corner, out of sight and out of the way, in my own "bamboo cage" of silence somewhere, I further request that the Defense Intelligence Agency, which I have attempted to serve loyally and with honor, assist me in being retired immediately from military service.

MILLARD A. PECK
Colonel, Infantry
USA

source: "An Examination of U. S. Policy Toward POW/MIAs: By the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Republican Staff", dated Thursday, May 23, 1991, pps. 10-1 to 10-5. This document is not copyrighted and is in the public domain.

provided to the net by the Office of Senator Carl Levin

transcribed by seraphim@ais.org

Date: Thu, 10 Oct 1991 14:46:05 CDT
Reply-To: dave 'who can do? ratmandu!' ratcliffe
<dave@ratmandu.corp.sgi.com>
Sender: Activists Mailing List <ACTIV-L@UMCVMB.BITNET>
From: dave 'who can do? ratmandu!' ratcliffe
<dave@ratmandu.corp.sgi.com>
Subject: the INSLAW Case: some background on the Wackenhut Corp.

Subject: the INSLAW Case: some background on the Wackenhut Corp.
Keywords: the far right is robustly alive & well in orgs like Wackenhut

the following provides some background on the Wackenhut Corporation from

"The Age Of Surveillance, The Aims and Methods of America's Political Intelligence System," by Frank J. Donner (Knopf, 1980), pp.424-425.

note this was written 11 years ago. am trying to locate something more current vis-a-vis Wackenhut's evolution through rr's regime into bushie's imperium. this "corporation" is fundamentally bound up with what Danny Casolero was investigating. Michael Riconosciuto's affidavit (recent post) describes his involvement with Wackenhut in 1983 and 1984 doing software development and modification on INSLAW's proprietary PROMIS software. some of this work was done on the Cabazon Indian reservation in Indio, California (near Palm Springs). a source of mine tells me Danny Casolero was thinking of naming his book-to-be "Indio".

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Of the three private detective agencies (Pinkerton, Burns, and Wackenhut), the most ideological is Wackenhut. Headquartered in Coral Gables, Florida, and organized in 1954 by George Wackenhut and three other ex-FBI agents, it is the third largest industrial security agency in the country.[22] By the mid-sixties, twenty-one of its forty-eight executives were former Bureau agents or supervisors, including two former high-ranking officers in the Bureau's domestic intelligence division. Until the late sixties and early seventies, when countersubversive intelligence came

under attack, Wackenhut led the countersubversive private detective industry. A 1965 prospectus claimed a 2.5 million name file, with 10,000 additions weekly. "The Company believes it is the only organization which can offer its clients a central file of this magnitude and full investigative services to supplement and verify information in the files." [23] Thereafter, the firm acquired the file collection of Karl Barslaag, a former naval intelligence operative, editor of the American Legion's countersubversive publication "Firing Line," and a HUAC and McCarthy Committee staffer. The firm then boasted that it owned "one of the largest independent collections" of countersubversive files and literature in the United States, with command over "more dossiers than any other organization in the country outside of the FBI." [24]

The agency's professional concerns reflect the political values of its director, George Wackenhut. A rightist of the old blood, he selected as his directors an assortment of ultras prominent in the John Birch Society, the ASC, and other right-wing groups. The agency's monthly house organ, the "Wackenhut Security Review," systematically decried the subversive inspiration in virtually all the protest movements of the sixties, from civil rights to peace. This vigilance earned the publication the accolade of right-wing organizations, including (in 1962) the George Washington Honor Medal and the Freedom Foundation Award at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; and (in 1965 and 1966) the Vigilant Patriots Award from the All-American Conference to Combat Communism.

Wackenhut's priorities shifted with changes in the post-Watergate climate, the passage of legislation designed to protect privacy, and the shift in client concern from ideology to physical security. The agency turned over its countersubversive file collection to the CLA [Church League of America]--gratis. Now, it claims, it declines active countersubversive investigative work and levies on the CLA's collection to meet client requests for dossiers and background information.

[22] Fred J. Cook, "Governor Kirk's Private Eyes," "Nation," May 15, 1967, pp. 616-622. Material on evolution of Wackenhut can be found in James Ridgeway, "Spying for Industry," "New Republic," May 14, 1966, pp. 10-11, and Richard Hartzman, "Private Police in America: The Private

Security Industry," issued by the Project on Privacy and Data Collection, ACLU, New York, Aug. 1, 1976.

[23] "The Wackenhut Corporation," prospectus issued by Francis I. duPont, A. C. Allyn, Inc., April 26, 1966, p. 13.

[24] Cook, op. cit.

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daveus rattus

yer friendly neighborhood ratman

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5. a state of life that calls for another way of living.

Date: Tue, 15 Oct 1991 15:32:27 CDT
Reply-To: Activists Mailing List <ACTIV-L@UMCVMB.BITNET>
Sender: Activists Mailing List <ACTIV-L@UMCVMB.BITNET>
From: dave 'who can do? ratmandu!' ratcliffe
<dave@ratmandu.corp.sgi.com>
Subject: the INSLAW case: more on Wackenhut

Subject: the INSLAW case: more on Wackenhut
Keywords: Hitler's rise to power succeeded through the use of private armies
Lines: 186

The Wackenhut Corporation: the maturation of "private" government.

Wackenhut's Director of Special Investigations Service Wayne Black told the "Washington Times" Deanna Hoagin earlier this year: "We are similar to a private FBI." The company's board of directors reads like a who's who of the intelligence community.

from "The First Stone" column of the Sept. 18-24 1991 issue of "In These Times":

Scandal Gates
By Joel Bleifuss

As CIA Director-designate Robert Gates pleads ignorance to knowledge of CIA misdeeds before the Senate Intelligence Committee this week, the lawmakers might do well to remember his sworn testimony of March 6, 1986. At the time, CIA Director William Casey had nominated Gates for the number-two position at the agency. In an effort to impress the senators considering his nomination, Gates said: "[Casey] and I have consulted extensively, even in my present position [as deputy director for intelligence] in all areas of intelligence policy including not just analysis and estimates but also organization, budgeting and covert action. I will now have a formal role in all of these areas."

If Gates really had "a formal role in all of these areas"--which appears likely--he certainly knows more than he has let on. And someone should ask Gates what he knows about the Wackenhut Corporation of Coral Gables, Fla.

As the Wackenhut letterhead puts in, the company provides "security systems and services throughout the world." As Wackenhut's Director of Special Investigations Service Wayne Black told the "Washington Times" Deanna Hoagin earlier this year: "We are similar to a private FBI." The company's board of directors reads like a who's who of the intelligence community. In 1984, for example, former Deputy CIA Director Bobby Inman, currently one of Gates' main boosters in Washington, was a director of the company. And among those on the 1983 board were two former FBI special agents, one retired Air Force general, one former commander in chief of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD), one former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, former CIA Director William Rabor, Nixon-appointed FBI Director Clarence Kelly and former CIA Deputy Director Frank Carlucci (who would later become Ronald Reagan's national security adviser). Further, the 1983 board included Robert Chasen, a former FBI special agent who was Carter's commissioner of customs until 1980, when he became a vice president of Wackenhut. Also in 1980, soon-to-be CIA chief William Casey served as Wackenhut's outside legal counsel--the same year he managed the Reagan-Bush election campaign.

ON THE RESERVATION: It was in 1980 that Wackenhut began working closely with Southern California's Cabazon Indians and their tribal administrator John Philip Nichols. The "San Francisco Chronicle"'s Jonathan Littman reported this month that Nichols, a white American who spent years in South American, has boasted to friends about working on the attempted assassination of Fidel Castro and the successful assassination of Salvador Allende.

The Cabazons hired Nichols as their administrator in 1978. Littman reports that thanks to Nichols' connections and grantsmanship, "federal and state agencies are helping to finance nearly \$250 million worth of projects on the 1,700-acre reservation" belonging to the 30-member Cabazon tribe. According to Littman, these projects include a HUD and mafia-financed casino, a 1,800-unit housing complex and a \$150 million waste incinerator/power plant that was built with tax-exempt state bonds.

But most intriguing is the Wackenhut/Cabazon joint venture, which began in 1980 when the tribe was asked to design a security system for Crown Prince Fahd's palace in Tiaf, Saudi Arabia. This was followed by Wackenhut/Cabazon joint venture proposals to develop biological weapons for the Pentagon and assemble night-vision

goggles for the Guatemalan and Jordanian governments.

Why was a security firm so interested in working with a small tribe of native Americans? One good reason can be found in a May 26, 1981, inter-office memo from Wackenhut executive Robert Frye to the above-mentioned Robert Chasen. Frye described an 11-day business trip with Nichols "to explore the apparent potential for the Cabazon-Wackenhut joint venture." Frye wrote that the reservation has "several key ingredients necessary" for a weapons plant, including "lack of opposition by adjacent governing bodies and 'irate citizens' over the siting of such a facility."

John Philip Nichols is no longer officially running the reservation. According to Littman, son Mark Nichols is the tribal administrator while the elder Nichols serves as a "mental-health counselor to Cabazon reservation employees." John Philip Nichols lost his job because federal law prohibits convicted felons from running casinos.

In January, 1985, Nichols was sentenced to four years in prison for capital solicitation of murder. He served 19 months. No one was killed in that murder-for-hire scheme. However, in 1981, Alfred Alvarez, a Cabazon Indian tribal vice president, and two non-Indians were murdered execution style. Alvarez's sister Linda Streeter Dukic says her brother and his friends died because they were about to expose mismanagement on the Cabazon reservation. Mike Kataoka of the Palm Springs "Press-Enterprise" reports that in 1985, when Nichols was arrested for hiring the hitman, the U.S. Justice Department was investigating his possible involvement in those 1981 deaths. No charges were ever filed.

ANOTHER MURDER? The Cabazon/Wackenhut connection was of particular interest to Danny Casolaro, the Washington-based journalist who was found dead in the Martinsburg, W. Va., Sheraton on August 10 (see "The First Stone," Sept. 4 [an earlier post in this on-line series]). Casolaro's friends, family and professional associates fear he was murdered--and that the crime was related to his investigations into a series of corporate and governmental scandals.

Casolaro's brother, Anthony, told the Washington-based "Corporate Crime Reporter," "Danny was trying to track monies Wackenhut spent and what Danny found was that [Wackenhut] had ear-marked a half million dollars for what they call 'research.'"

Anthony Casolaro said that the money "ties in Wackenhut with this Indian reservation and organized crime and CIA guys . . . Those

same people showed up with Inslaw and one of them shows up in the October Surprise."

The "October Surprise" was the alleged campaign deal between Iran and the 1980 Reagan campaign to delay the release of the U.S. hostages held in Tehran (see "In These Times," June 24, 1987, Oct. 12, 1988 and April 27, 1991).

"Inslaw was Inslaw Inc. of Washington D.C.--a firm that has brought suit in federal court, charging that the Reagan Justice Department stole the company's Promis case-management software program. Two judges has thus far ruled in the company's favor. The suit is still in the courts (see "In These Times," May 29, 1991 ["Software Pirates," an earlier on-line post in this series]).

Earlier this year, Inslaw further alleged that the Justice Department turned the stolen software over to Earl Brian, a friend of both former President Ronald Reagan and former Attorney General Edwin Meese. Inslaw charges that the software was a payback for Brian's help in arranging the October Surprise. Former Israeli intelligence agent Ari Ben-Menashe alleges that Brian--now the head of United Press International--was directly involved in arranging the 1980 deal. Ben-Menashe claims that Brian "worked very closely" on the deal with Robert Gates, who was then a top CIA official.

NO JUSTICE: Wackenhut is also linked to the Inslaw scandal. Michael Riconosciuto--a weapons-systems designer and software specialist--was director of research for the Wackenhut/Cabazon joint venture in the early '80s. In a March 1991 affidavit for the Inslaw case, Riconosciuto claimed that "in connection with [Riconosciuto's] work for Wackenhut," he modified the stolen Promis software for foreign sales. "Earl W. Brian made [the software program] available to me through Wackenhut after acquiring it from Peter Videnieks, who was then a Department of Justice contracting official with responsibility for the Promis software."

Videnieks, a former Customs Service official under Commissioner Chasen, served in the Justice Department from 1981 through 1990. In his affidavit, Riconosciuto said Videnieks had threatened to retaliate against Riconosciuto if he cooperated with a House Judiciary Committee probe of the Inslaw case. Seven days after filing the affidavit (which was not, technically, part of the committee investigation), Riconosciuto was arrested on drug-selling charges. He is now in a Seattle jail awaiting trial.

PRIVATE SPIES The 1980s were a decade of privatization. As a for-profit intelligence service, Wackenhut appears to have taken on the kind of work that in earlier years the FBI and CIA would have done (and still do), albeit illegally.

On the environmental-crime front, Wackenhut is now the object of an investigation by the House Interior Committee. Early in 1990, the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., a consortium of seven oil companies that run the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, hired Wackenhut to spy on environmentalists, whistleblowers and other oil company critics. Wackenhut tactics included setting up a phoney environmental organization and having agents pose as reporters. It is alleged in press reports that the company also monitored Rep. George Miller (D-CA) whose house subcommittee has been investigating environmental crimes allegedly committed by the consortium which is composed of British Petroleum, Exxon, ARCO, Phillips, Unocal, Mobil and Amerada Hess.

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daveus rattus

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5. a state of life that calls for another way of living.